

NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Room
Kotzebue, Alaska
October 26, 2017
9:00 a.m

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Enoch Shiedt, Chair
Percy Ballot
Vern Cleveland
Louie Commack
Michael Kramer
Enoch Mitchell
Beverly Moto
Calvin Moto

Regional Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Kotzebue, Alaska - 10/26/2017)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Good morning, all.
8 Good morning, radioland. This morning we'll start with
9 innovation.
10
11 Kramer, could you come up to the mic
12 and do invocation, please.
13
14 MR. L. KRAMER: Yeah.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Come up to the mic,
17 please.
18
19 (Invocation)
20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Taikuu. Thank you,
22 sir.
23
24 MR. STEVENSON: Item number 2, call to
25 order.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll call this
28 meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.
29
30 Roll call.
31
32 MR. STEVENSON: Vern Cleveland.
33
34 MR. CLEVELAND: Here.
35
36 MR. STEVENSON: Enoch Mitchell.
37
38 MR. MITCHELL: Here.
39
40 MR. STEVENSON: Mike Kramer.
41
42 MR. KRAMER: Here.
43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Attamuk Shiedt.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Here.
47
48 MR. STEVENSON: Beverly Moto.
49
50

1 MS. MOTO: Here.
2
3 MR. STEVENSON: Calvin Moto.
4
5 MR. MOTO: Here.
6
7 MR. STEVENSON: Louie Commack.
8
9 MR. COMMACK: Here.
10
11 MR. STEVENSON: We also have Hannah P.
12 Loon excused absent for medical and Percy Ballot, Sr.
13 also excused for medical.
14
15 Mr. Chair.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy's on the phone.
18
19 MR. STEVENSON: My apologies. Percy
20 Ballot, Sr. is on the phone.
21
22 Thank you.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Welcome, everyone.
25 We'll go back to our agenda. We were on -- we'll do
26 WP-18.
27
28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Just a comment.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.
31 Sorry about -- comments. Everyday we have -- I'm sorry
32 we have public comments, right?
33
34 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Zach.
37
38 MR. STEVENSON: Item number 5,
39 reviewing and adopting agenda. I just wanted to point
40 out due to Louie's departure today it was requested to
41 have the update from Gates of the Arctic National Park
42 and Preserve and specifically on the proposed -- on the
43 subsistence study related to the Ambler Road Access
44 Project delivered earlier this morning, sometime
45 between 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
46
47 So I wanted to make you aware of that
48 and to address Member Commack's need see if we might be
49 able to accommodate that presentation earlier today.
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, you're --
4 that'll be fine with you.

5
6 MR. COMMACK: Yes.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Okay. Thank
9 you. So we'll -- I thought there was a morning public
10 comments.

11
12 MR. STEVENSON: Public comments, yes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Now we'll turn
15 it to number 9, public and tribal comments on -- this
16 morning if there's any from the floor or on the
17 radioland.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we'll go back
22 to our agenda. We'll work on WP 18-45, decrease
23 harvest limit for caribou in unit 23.

24
25 MS. MAAS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 My name is Lisa Maas for the record and next up is WP
27 18-45 which begins on page 104 of the meeting book.

28
29 Wildlife proposals WP 18-45 was
30 submitted by the Northwest Arctic Council and requests
31 that the caribou harvest limit in unit 23 be reduced
32 from five caribou per day to three caribou per day.
33 The proponent states that the proposed change is needed
34 to conserve the Western Arctic caribou herd or WACH as
35 its population is currently declining and it's a vital
36 subsistence resource. The proponent also notes the
37 proposed change will still meet the needs of Federally-
38 qualified subsistence users.

39
40 In 2016 the Federal Subsistence Board
41 reduced the caribou harvest limit in unit 23 from 15
42 caribou per day to five caribou per day. As the
43 biology, harvest and culture information was previously
44 presented I will move on to other alternatives
45 considered.

46
47 One alternative considered was to defer
48 this proposal. However unless the Board of Game
49 reduces the State harvest limit this proposal would
50

1 have no conservation affect and would restrict
2 subsistence use in National Parks in areas open only to
3 Federally-qualified subsistence users. If this
4 proposal is adopted the caribou harvest limit in unit
5 23 would be reduced which reduces opportunity for
6 Federally-qualified subsistence users. Federal
7 regulations would also be more restrictive than State
8 regulations, eliminating a subsistence priority. State
9 and Federal Regulations would be further misaligned,
10 increasing regulatory complexity and user confusion.

11
12 In 2016 the harvest limit was reduced
13 from 15 caribou per day to five caribou per day. Time
14 is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of recent
15 regulatory restrictions before enacting further
16 restrictions. There would also be no conservation
17 effects from adopting this proposal as all Alaska
18 residents would still be able to harvest five caribou
19 per day in unit 23 under State regulations.

20
21 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
22 oppose proposal WP 18-45.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. We need
27 report on Board consultation, tribes, on number 2.

28
29 Go ahead, Zach.

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, there were
32 no tribal consult -- there was tribal consultation and
33 ANCSA corporation provided and there were no comments
34 received.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 (Whispered conversation)

39
40 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. We
41 still need to provide a report on whether there was
42 feedback from the various entities.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Because.....

45
46 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:you know, I was
49 asking Zach yesterday, change our mind, we aren't going
50

1 to use Robert Rules of Order. I think we're back to
2 Robert Rules of Order. So we had the -- we had the
3 tribes. So we need to go to ANCSA corporations. And
4 anyone from ANCSA corporations?

5
6 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
7 There was no feedback, no comments received from the
8 ANCSA corporations either.

9
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So we'll
13 go to number 3, ADF&G.

14
15 Anyone from ADF&G.

16
17 MR. HANSEN: Hello. Yeah, this is Alex
18 Hansen, the caribou biologist for the Western Arctic
19 caribou herd here in Kotzebue. I work for Alaska
20 Department of Fish and Game. And thank you for the
21 opportunity to speak to you this morning.

22
23 Real quickly, just wanted to kind of
24 echo Lisa's remarks. And I want to also additionally
25 say that, you know, we appreciate the effort here, your
26 concern over caribou conservation and we understand
27 that, you know, you're willing to take cuts to help
28 maintain the herd and we appreciate that.

29
30 Along with Lisa's remarks, you know, we
31 don't necessarily feel like this cut will conserve the
32 herd at this time. You know, recently you just cut the
33 harvest limit from 15 to five and where the State
34 harvest is still sitting at five I don't know that
35 there's going to be a lot of change, that there really
36 will be any conservation based on this. An individual
37 could still harvest five animals per day under these
38 regulations.

39
40 That is my comment there.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

43
44 MR. HANSEN: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone from the
47 Federal.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, from the
2 tribal governments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we'll go to
7 other regional councils.

8
9 Do we have anything, Zach, on -- from
10 other regional councils?

11
12 MR. STEVENSON: No, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead. You
15 have the floor.

16
17 MS. ATKINSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 This is Hannah Atkinson with the National Park Service
19 and I have the comments from the Cape Krusenstern
20 National Monument Subsistence Resource Commission. The
21 Commission voted to oppose WP 18-45. In their comments
22 the Commission approved of the five caribou a day bag
23 limit that is currently in regulation and thought it
24 was fitting for the level of conservation for the
25 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.

26
27 The comments from the Kobuk Valley
28 National Parks Subsistence Resource Commission, the
29 Commission voted to oppose the proposal. In discussion
30 Commission members talked about the difficulty of
31 harvesting enough caribou for all of the families in
32 their communities with the obstacles of price of gas
33 and an unpredictable migration. The members do not
34 want to change the bag limit from three to five caribou
35 per day because this would become another obstacle to
36 harvest enough meat. Some members expressed that an
37 annual bag limit might be a conservation measure that
38 would accommodate their need to hunt when the caribou
39 are near and to hunt enough to provide for multiple
40 families.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Fish and
45 Game Advisory Committees.

46
47 Go ahead, Zach.

48
49 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, reporting on
50

1 the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional
2 Advisory Council. The Council met on October 10 and
3 11, 2017 in Fairbanks and voted to take no action on
4 proposal 18-45 and defer to the home region.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. From
9 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

10
11 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
14 radioland. Sorry about that.

15
16 MS. OKADA: Hi, this is Marcy Okada and
17 I have comments from the Gates of the Arctic National
18 Park Subsistence Resource Commission.

19
20 The SRC is in support of this proposal.
21 There continues to be a conservation concern. This is
22 a reasonable proposal because most of the caribou
23 hunting is done by boat and if there's two family
24 members in a boat that would equal six caribou and that
25 would be fair. Some villages have to travel over 50
26 miles on the river and must people hunt with another
27 person.

28
29 So this proposal works out fine.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

34
35 Yeah, go ahead, Chris.

36
37 MR. McKEE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I just
38 wanted to report that -- Zach reported on Western
39 Interior, but I also wanted to let you know that the
40 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council also took up
41 this proposal and they opposed it.

42
43 Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Okay.
46 Number 5, written -- is there any written public
47 comments, Zach?

48
49 MR. STEVENSON: No, Mr. Chair, there
50

1 were no written public comments received.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
4 Any public testimony from the public.

5

6 Yeah, go ahead. Come to the table.

7

8 MS. MONIGOLD: Hello, my name is Karmen
9 Monigold, I'm a local resident. I would like to oppose
10 this.

11

12 And I appreciate the conservation
13 efforts and I echo what everyone here has said already.
14 Because not everybody has somebody to go hunting with
15 and when you're out there you're going long distances,
16 the caribou are not predictable and when you come upon
17 a herd and you're only allowed three and you've gone a
18 lot further and spent a lot more money and, you know,
19 and then you're going home with three when you could
20 have went home with five and maybe filled your freezer
21 and not had to worry about going out again. And then
22 also we haven't heard the numbers back yet from the
23 count this year. And, you know, they're saying that
24 there may be a shift in the herd that maybe we're not
25 at a decline anymore. So if that's the case maybe, you
26 know, you should wait on this before you put more
27 restrictions on our people. And to put -- you know,
28 with the Board of Game not thinking that we need to go
29 further and decrease, you're putting basically
30 sporthunters above or nonresidents above subsistence.

31

32 So that would be my concern.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

37

38 Anyone else.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We're on
43 number 7 now, we'll let Zach take over from here.

44

45 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 We're now at the point in the presentation procedure
47 where we entertain a motion to adopt. In this case we
48 would entertain a motion to adopt wildlife proposal 18-
49 45 addressing the decreased harvest limit for caribou

50

1 in unit 23.

2

3 So we have an opportunity now to
4 address a motion to adopt.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Vern.

11 Thanks, Zach.

12

13 MR. CLEVELAND: I make a motion to
14 adopt 18-45.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I need a second.

17

18 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

21

22 MR. BALLOT: Is he moving to adopt 18-
23 45 or are you moving to oppose proposal 18-45?

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks, Percy. We'll
26 be there, yeah.

27

28 Go ahead. Go ahead, Zach.

29

30 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
31 Member Ballot, the question before the Council at this
32 moment is to consider a motion to adopt wildlife
33 proposal 18-45 addressing the decreased harvest limit
34 for caribou in unit 23.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

39

40 Go ahead, Moto.

41

42 MR. MOTO: Yeah, I wondering when --
43 you talk about Seward Peninsula. Did you have any
44 input on the Seward Peninsula Advisory.....

45

46 MR. STEVENSON: Point of order, Mr.
47 Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Calvin.

50

1 MR. MOTO:about how to.....
2
3 MR. STEVENSON: Point of order.....
4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.
6
7 MR. STEVENSON:Mr. Chair.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Point of order. We
10 need a second before we discuss this.
11
12 MR. MOTO: Oh. They second the motion,
13 that way we could have discussion before we vote.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, but we're
16 telling you there's no second yet.
17
18 MR. MOTO: Yeah.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's what we're
21 trying to tell you.
22
23 MR. COMMACK: Mr. Chair.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Louie.
26
27 MR. COMMACK: Just for clarification
28 Vern's motion is to decrease or keep it the same?
29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: His motion was to
31 adopt 18-45. Okay?
32
33 MR. MOTO: I don't see that.
34
35 MR. COMMACK: So decreased from five to
36 three?
37
38 MR. CLEVELAND: Point of order. Can we
39 -- we got a -- we got a motion on the floor, can we get
40 a point of order here?
41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I don't
43 have.....
44
45 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:a second yet.
48 We'll discuss it -- yeah, I know, what you're trying to
49 say, Louie.
50

1 MR. COMMACK: Yeah. Okay.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll discuss --
4 we'll talk about it when we get to discuss it.

5
6 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
9 Enoch.

10
11 MR. MITCHELL: Second.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second by Enoch.
14 Open for discussion on proposal 18-45.

15
16 So now you can say something, Calvin.

17
18 MR. COMMACK: Okay. Yeah. My question
19 was Vern's motion was to decrease from five to three?

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

22
23 MR. MOTO: My question was I was going
24 to raise up was since this is affecting our subsistence
25 use in the lower Seward Peninsula Advisory Council. I
26 have -- I've been on that, I never heard anything about
27 meeting with the Northern Seward Peninsula so I can't
28 -- I can't go with the numbers on those because I don't
29 know what the other members are talking -- would say
30 about it. We have never had a Northern Seward
31 Peninsula Advisory meeting for a year. And I think we
32 tried to have one meeting, but they didn't have a -- we
33 didn't have a quorum. And but what I was wondering
34 could you some way get input from the Northern Seward
35 Peninsula about the whole Seward Peninsula, you know.
36 A lot of times Seward.....

37
38 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

39
40 MR. MOTO:Seward Peninsula and
41 Nome make -- try to make decisions for us and I don't
42 think that's right.

43
44 So I just wanted to bring that up.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

49
50

1 Go ahead, Percy.

2
3 MR. BALLOT: If he's talking about the
4 northern Seward Peninsula that's a State -- that's
5 Buckland and Deering.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, he's talking
8 about.....

9
10 MR. BALLOT:that I remember.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:he was talking
13 about the Seward Penn.

14
15 MR. BALLOT: Well, anyway, yeah, I was
16 just going to mention that our Northern Seward
17 Peninsula working -- didn't get a chance to say
18 anything about this, but speaking as a member and for
19 myself I would oppose this proposal. We haven't had a
20 chance to talk about, but we didn't -- I think we have
21 a new coordinator there now and Karmen usually get a
22 time for Buckland and Deering to talk about -- if
23 that's what he's talking about the proposal, but we
24 never got a chance to due to a lot of stuff.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
27 Percy. And I will say something on this proposal. I
28 will also oppose this proposal for your information on
29 18-45.

30
31 Go ahead, Vern.

32
33 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, I think this
34 proposal came from the Kiana elders, from five to three
35 because of misuse of caribou that they wanted to go to
36 it. Because of their decrease, but now that I heard
37 they're going up so I'll oppose this too.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Go
42 ahead, Enoch.

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Pardon me, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Zach.

47
48 MR. STEVENSON: We require on the
49 record if someone chooses to support or oppose the

50

1 proposal to explain why, to provide a justification.
2 And I believe that that was not provided in the last
3 comment.

4
5 Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think that was me.
8 The reason why I opposed this, I think it needs to
9 align with the State to make it easier on our people to
10 have one regulation with the State and the Federal
11 side. And Karmen is right, we all go long distances
12 and someone that follows that don't have a boat need to
13 have a chance to get what they need for the winter.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 Go ahead, Enoch. Back to you.

18
19 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
20 support this 45 with amendment to change it back from
21 three a day, change it back to five a day because of a
22 lot of concern from what we hear today that three a day
23 is not enough for people to get their quota. And to
24 allow the people that go out once and that might be
25 their only time when they go out to hunt for that
26 season, and it would be good for them to get their
27 quota of five. Because it don't really matter on the
28 conservation side because one day we'll get three and
29 then the next day we'll get two more and that still
30 will be five. And it's all that will do is just make
31 us use more gas to go out the second time. So -- and
32 also there was a lot of opposition from the AC side and
33 from even the agencies. So with that I would like to
34 support it as amended to make it back to five a day
35 from three a day.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Enoch, there's
40 a mis -- you -- there's a misunderstanding. If we
41 oppose it it'll stay just the same, we don't have to
42 make another proposal back to five. If we oppose it, I
43 -- if we.....

44
45 MR. MITCHELL: Oh.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Correct me if
48 I'm wrong, I'm getting mixed up. Yeah, if we oppose we
49 -- it'll just stay the same, we will still get five a
50

1 day. So we don't have to make any amendments to it.
2 Okay?

3
4 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
7 Percy.

8
9 MR. BALLOT: I just want to mention
10 that I'm opposing it too. You heard yesterday or the
11 other day about the morbidity rate and the calf
12 survival and then all that cows to bull ratio are
13 getting better. And we lowered it from 15 to five a
14 year ago so it need time to go through it, it would be
15 a lot easier for a subsistence hunter to go out and get
16 five and go out like a couple times a week or something
17 in order to get what they need. So I'm going to
18 be.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy. Go
21 ahead, Calvin.

22
23 MR. MOTO: I just want to bring up the
24 fact that I could see where we have to limit because
25 there's a decrease in herd, but what I -- the last time
26 we ever had a meeting about the caribou was when Jim
27 Dow was a biologist and he came to Deering about three
28 years ago to talk about the declining herd. And we
29 never heard anything more after that. I'm aware of the
30 fact that we should limit harvest, but we like to be
31 informed about it before, you know. That's all I
32 wanted to bring up.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. If I
37 don't -- okay. Go ahead, Enoch.

38
39 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
40 rescind my support and my amendment.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. If
45 there's no one -- go ahead, Louie.

46
47 MR. COMMACK: Yeah. Thank you. I
48 would like to keep it at five. My justification for
49 that is upper Kobuk, the last two years there have been
50

1 no caribou during the winter. It's a real hardship, if
2 we should move back to three it's going to even quite
3 more of a hardship. I would propose that we keep it at
4 five.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. And like I
7 stated earlier, if we oppose it it'll stay at five. If
8 we vote on this opposing it it'll stay at five.

9
10 If I don't hear any comments from the
11 Council we need to do a vote on this. Go ahead, Zach,
12 take over and I need a roll call.

13
14 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Cleveland.

15
16 MR. CLEVELAND: No.

17
18 MR. STEVENSON: Pardon me. Through the
19 Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.

22
23 MR. STEVENSON: We need a call for
24 question.

25
26 MR. CLEVELAND: I call for question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question's been
29 called for. We will now take a roll call.

30
31 Go ahead, Zach.

32
33 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Mr. Cleveland.

35
36 MR. CLEVELAND: No.

37
38 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Mitchell.

39
40 MR. MITCHELL: Oppose.

41
42 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Kramer.

43
44 MR. KRAMER: Oppose.

45
46 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oppose.

49
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Beverly Moto.
2
3 MS. MOTO: Oppose.
4
5 MR. STEVENSON: Calvin Moto.
6
7 MR. MOTO: No.
8
9 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Commack.
10
11 MR. COMMACK: Oppose.
12
13 MR. STEVENSON: MR. BALLOT:
14
15 MR. BALLOT: No.
16
17 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 There was unanimous opposition to 18-45.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. 18-45
21 failed. It'll stay at five a day.
22
23 Okay. Yeah, thank you. So we need to
24 move on.
25
26 MS. MAAS: Thank you. Through the
27 Chair. The next proposal will be 18-48/49 which is on
28 page 288 of the meeting book.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Proposal 18-
31 48/49 is on the table.
32 Go ahead. You have the floor.
33
34 MS. MAAS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Again for the record my name is Lisa Maas. And next up
36 is proposal 18-48/49 and again it's on page 288 of the
37 meeting book.
38
39 Wildlife proposal 18-48 was submitted
40 by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group or
41 WACH Working Group and wildlife proposal 18-49 was
42 submitted by Louis Cusack of Chugiak. Both proposals
43 request that Federal reporting requirements for caribou
44 in units 22, 23 and 26A be aligned with the State's
45 registration permit requirements. Both proponents
46 recognize the registration permit hunt as a useful tool
47 to monitor harvest, inform herd management and provide
48 more accurate harvest data which is particularly
49 important given the current WACH population decline.
50

1 The proponent for WP 18-49 also states that different
2 Federal and State reporting requirements would be very
3 cumbersome and confusing to users.

4
5 In 2016 the Alaska Board of Game
6 adopted proposal 40 to establish a registration permit
7 hunt in unit 22. In January, 2017 the Board of Game
8 adopted proposal two requiring registration permits in
9 units 23 and 26A in order to better monitor harvest and
10 improve management flexibility.

11
12 This proposal affects unit within the
13 ranges of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou
14 herds. Caribou populations naturally fluctuate over
15 time and both herds have recently been declining.
16 Information on the Western Arctic herd has already been
17 presented so I will focus on the Teshekpuk herd. The
18 Teshekpuk herd peaked at 69,000 caribou in 2008 and has
19 since declined 40 percent to 41,500 caribou in 2015.
20 The 2016 bull/cow ratio of 28 bulls per 100 cows was
21 the lowest ration since 1991 and is below management
22 objectives.

23
24 Local harvest from the Western Arctic
25 herd is often derived from models which accurately
26 reflect harvest trends, but not actual harvest numbers.
27 There is a lot of uncertainty surrounding harvest
28 estimates from the Western Arctic herd. Harvest from
29 the Teshekpuk herd may already exceed the estimated
30 harvestable surplus for this herd, however estimating
31 harvest from the Teshekpuk herd is difficult due to
32 lack of harvest data and overlap between caribou herds.
33 Currently the harvestable surplus estimate is 2,500
34 caribou, however the estimated total harvest is 3,000
35 caribou. On average local hunters account for 99.7
36 percent of the Teshekpuk harvest while non local
37 hunters only account for .3 percent of the harvest.
38 The vast majority of Teshekpuk caribou are harvested in
39 unit 26A.

40
41 If this proposal is adopted State
42 registration permits will be required to hunt caribou
43 in units 22, 23 and 26A. Requiring State registration
44 permits would also reduce regulatory complexity and
45 user confusion by aligning State and Federal reporting
46 requirements. However concurrence would be needed from
47 the State to allow Federally-qualified subsistence
48 users to use a State registration permit while hunting
49 under Federal regulations.

50

1 No biological impacts are expected from
2 this proposal. Rather registration permits would
3 provide better harvest data benefitting the caribou
4 resource and subsistence uses through more informed
5 herd management and hunting regulations.
6

7 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
8 support proposal 18-48 and to take no action on
9 proposal WP 18-49.
10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Now we
14 need to hear from the tribes. Anyone from the tribe,
15 Zach?
16

17 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair. There was
18 no feedback, no comments from the tribes or the ANCSA
19 corporations.
20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Now we
24 need to go ADF&G.
25

26 MR. HANSEN: Thank you. For the record
27 this is Alex Hansen, I work for Department of Fish and
28 Game, caribou biologist here in Kotzebue. And just
29 wanted to say that the State is in support of this
30 proposal as we have just instituted the RC 907 permit
31 in unit 23 and 26A. It would align with State
32 regulations and it would allow us capture that data
33 that we've been missing so that we can have a better
34 handle on harvest which will allow us to manage the
35 herd more effectively.
36

37 Thank you.
38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So you're -- I just
40 got a question for you. Are you supporting 48 or 49?
41

42 MR. HANSEN: Yes, the State is in
43 support of.....
44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Or have no action on
46 it?
47

48 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, it's 48.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
2 Now we need to hear from the Federal.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MR. MOTO: We're talking about 18-48.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And 49. Yeah. Okay.
9 I don't hear nothing from the -- anyone from the
10 tribal?

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not we need to go
15 to four, other regional councils. Okay. If not --
16 sorry about that. We need to hear from the other
17 regional councils.

18
19 Anyone, Zach?

20
21 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, the Western
22 Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council voted to
23 support the OSM preliminary conclusion to support 18-48
24 and take no action on 18-49. The Council supported
25 because providing the harvest data through the
26 registration permit ensures that managers that have
27 useful information and to protect the allocation of the
28 resource to subsistence users in the future. The
29 Seward Peninsula Council, and correct me if I'm
30 mistaken, Mr. McKee, voted to support 18-48 and take no
31 action on 18-49. Is that correct, Mr. McKee?

32
33 MR. MCKEE: (Inaudible response)

34
35 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
38 Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

39
40 Go ahead. You have the floor.

41
42 MS. ATKINSON: This is from the SRC.
43 This is Hannah Atkins with the National Park Service.
44 And from the Cape Krusenstern National Monument
45 Subsistence Resource Commission, the Commission voted
46 to support 18-48 and they wanted to take no action on
47 WP 18-49 because they addressed their concerns with 18-
48 48. They preferred to support the local proposal
49 rather than the proposal from Louie -- Louis Cusack.

50

1 And the Kobuk Valley National Park
2 Subsistence Resource Commission also voted to support
3 this proposal. In their comments they encouraged
4 everyone to do their part in management of the herd and
5 the Commission supports gathering active harvest data
6 from registration permit. And the Commission voted to
7 take no action on WP 18-49, their concerns are
8 addressed with 48.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. So
13 we need to go to number 5.

14
15 MS. MAAS: Oh, I think probably Marcy.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Marcy. You
18 have the floor.

19
20 MS. OKADA: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is
21 Marcy Okada, with the National Park Service. And the
22 Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource
23 Commission had the following comment. In general the
24 North Slope communities are not in favor of supporting
25 this regulatory change. The main reason is harvest
26 information could be collected in a more accurate and
27 trustworthy way through harvest surveys conducted by
28 the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife
29 Management. Many of the communities on the North Slope
30 still need to be informed that there's now a State
31 regulation for caribou harvest tickets in these same
32 game management units.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Okay. We
37 need to go to number 5, summary of written public
38 comments.

39
40 Anyone, Zach.

41
42 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 There were no written comments received on wildlife
44 proposal 18-48/49.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any
49 public testimony?

50

1 Go ahead. Come to the floor. State
2 your name.

3
4 MR. L. KRAMER: Mr. Chair. My name is
5 Lance Kramer. I'm here representing myself. And I
6 would be opposed to this because it -- there's our
7 vendors in our villages, there are not a lot of vendors
8 and they have open times, close times and our people
9 might not be able to get the permits to hunt caribou
10 and it would more make them criminals if they don't
11 have permits with them. And so I -- you know, the
12 State, I understand that they want to get more harvest
13 data, but they shouldn't -- that's their job, they can
14 do that through house surveys and all that kind of
15 stuff. That falls on the manager's shoulders, it
16 shouldn't fall on a hunter's shoulders, we just hunt.
17 And so that's their job to do the harvest data. We
18 should do the same thing like that last one. I think
19 you ought to just approve it and then at the end vote
20 to oppose it. You know, myself personally, because
21 again we don't want to make criminals out of our people
22 having to go get permits from the stores and stuff all
23 the time.

24
25 So also I'd like to say that this
26 proposal, they're spanning unit 22, 23 and 26A. Well,
27 the thing is is those people never -- you know, you
28 can't do an across the board proposal without all of
29 their inputs to impact them. And so their -- that's
30 their unit that they got to decide on. Can't go across
31 them and try to tell them what to do. So I would --
32 I'm not for that.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Okay.
35 Now anyone else out there before I -- if not I'll turn
36 it over to Zach.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Number 7. Go ahead,
41 Zach, you have the floor.

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 We're now at the regional council recommendation and to
45 move forward we need a motion to adopt. This is again
46 a motion to adopt.

47
48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Do I have a
2 motion to adopt 18-48/49.

3
4 Yeah, go ahead, Enoch.

5
6 MR. MITCHELL: I move to adopt 18-
7 48/49.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. There's a
10 motion to adopt. Do I have a second?

11
12 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second by Vern.
15 Thank you.

16
17 Go ahead, Zach.

18
19 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Now we have discussion and justification on proposal
21 18-48/49, again requiring the registration permit hunt
22 for caribou hunting in units 22, 23 and 26A.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Cleveland.

27
28 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes. When you do get
29 your hunting license they'll give you your caribou
30 permits, right, they hand it -- when you go every year
31 you get a permit, you get a hunting license every year
32 unless you get a permanent one like I do. But if you
33 go to the -- get your hunting license they'll give you
34 your permit right there, simple as that. And you don't
35 need hunting license to go hunting so they'll just hand
36 you your permit right there, your caribou permit.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
39 Kramer.

40
41 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. Some of the
42 villages don't even have vendors, license vendors. You
43 know, this would just be creating ammunition for our
44 law enforcement to make us criminals, give them
45 ammunition. And that's going to start pounding on our
46 people and we're going to be screaming with arms up and
47 hollering, you know, this is not fair. So I think we
48 keep it the old way when, you know, you got your
49 hunting license they just gave you a blue subsistence
50

1 harvest ticket. I mean, I could even remember one year
2 I was up there on the Kobuk and the week prior I got my
3 caribou ticket and it was just a blue ticket with the
4 harvest data and the ticket number. I was up there in
5 the Parklands, the Park Service came up to me, ranger,
6 asked me if I had my hunting license. And I said sure.
7 And he said and what's this blue ticket. I said that's
8 my caribou harvest ticket. He said that's not. I said
9 I suggest you get back in your little boat, go down
10 river, get reinformed and come back up and then go
11 check with me. So there's a total lack of
12 communication between agencies and the tickets. So
13 they need to be -- you know, every time we get new
14 rangers everybody all say this is what our harvest
15 tickets look like so they're familiar with what is
16 given. They have to be because if I would have got a
17 ticket for having that blue ticket I would have owned
18 somebody's -- you know, I would have owned somebody
19 because, you know, they're not informed. This is just
20 making our people criminals. It's up to the agency,
21 they need to get off their keisters and not be sitting
22 in the office and get out there and start sending out
23 surveys. Sending out surveys. Hey, give a drum of
24 gas, give a drum of stove oil, \$100 gift certificate
25 for somewhere. People will send them in.

26
27 That's all I have.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Kramer.
30 Go ahead, Calvin.

31
32 MR. MOTO: Before that (indiscernible)
33 permit, I was wondering whether each vehicle we allot
34 so many permits or would they have to like each family
35 or looks like I'm thinking about it the same way that
36 the muskox is being handed out, you know. Are the
37 villages going to have to say well, each family can get
38 so many with this permit a year because some of them --
39 some of the families are pretty large and they need
40 more than what -- sometime what the permit says, you
41 know. But this is something I want to bring up and
42 I've always been kind of leery of permits because
43 sometimes you get in trouble.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Moto. Go
48 ahead, you have the floor.

49
50

1 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, this is Alex Hansen,
2 Department of Fish and Game. Just wanted to address
3 Mr. Moto's concerns and also Mr. Cleveland's concerns.
4 As he mentioned when you come in and get your hunting
5 license we've been very good about handing out those
6 permits. And with each of those RC 907 permits there's
7 the ability to record the harvest of 10 caribou. And
8 that gets to the question that you asked, Mr. Moto. So
9 per ticket there are, you know, 10 caribou that can be
10 harvested on that ticket. And if you have the need for
11 more than one ticket we would be happy to supply you
12 with more, more than one of those registration permits.
13 So in essence there's no limit on the number that you
14 can get. And, you know, I understand your concerns
15 about the availability of the permits. These permits
16 are also available online, they're pretty easy to get
17 ahold of. And we have vendors on most of the villages
18 and we are working toward that. We also made a huge
19 effort this year to get out into the villages and issue
20 these permits. You know, the biologists went out and
21 did that to share the permit and make sure everybody
22 had access to it. And I might also state that current
23 regulations under the State RC 907 permit, to hunt on
24 NANA lands you do have to have that permit. So this is
25 just aligning with State regulations. And I appreciate
26 your concerns over having to, you know, do the work for
27 us, but we really appreciate that. You know, we can't
28 really get at this information, the accuracy of this
29 information and the timeliness if we don't have
30 participation in this.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Go
35 ahead. You have the floor.

36
37 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
38 also just wanted to mention I spoke with Justin, the
39 State trooper who was here yesterday about this permit
40 issue and he said when he was out checking people this
41 season, you know, some people had them, some people
42 didn't, but he understands that something like this
43 takes time. So he didn't issue any citations to people
44 that didn't have the ticket. So it -- you know, the
45 law enforcement officers understand something like this
46 takes time and they're not just going to go out and
47 issue citations to everyone. And he said no one -- he
48 checked, you know, if they didn't have the permit this
49 year he didn't issue them the citation, he just let
50

1 them know that next time they need a permit.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, but I will say
4 something on -- after you said that and I'll get back
5 to you, Enoch. You're right, but we don't have
6 McGinnis, that maybe the next trooper might not be
7 McGinnis that our -- as our enforcement that understand
8 us a lot. I'll give you an example. Someone wanted a
9 permit and the vendor wasn't in town, they were at the
10 hospital. Enoch, I waited over a week, I never have a
11 chance to get my permit. I'm going out. If I get a
12 ticket I'll call you up and you'll back me up. I said,
13 yes, I will. They waited a week and they went out
14 without a permit, not that they want to be illegal, but
15 there was no vendor and he said, Enoch, I don't have a
16 credit card if I go to the computer to pay for it.

17
18 MR. KRAMER: And people who don't even
19 have internet.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And so that --
22 that's.....

23
24 MR. KRAMER: He's right.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Hang on. I was going
27 to -- could I finish. And I was -- that's what I was
28 going to say. Not only that he don't have an internet,
29 he's a single guy, he don't have any -- he don't even
30 know how to turn a computer on. He said it is -- his
31 relatives was going to do to it and he had -- no, I
32 can't pay for it. They say I'll pay for it, he said
33 no. I need a vendor, I got the money here. So.....

34
35 Go ahead, Vern.

36
37 MR. CLEVELAND: I say we have a NANA
38 resource office in our villages to help people that
39 can't go get their -- they'd go online and get their
40 hunting permit and whatever. That's what we have our
41 NANA resource people in our villages to help in
42 situations like this. And they'll help you out, you
43 know, all you got to do is just ask. If you don't have
44 a computer, they do have an internet in their offices
45 and they will help you out.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. You had
48 your hand up, Enoch?

49
50

1 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, I'd like to say
2 that the caribou population decline has pretty much
3 slowed down and pretty much almost come to a stop
4 according to -- anyway the decline is pretty much
5 slowing down and I don't think it'll go to an increase
6 because of the calf mortality, the calf production. So
7 it's looking good on that side. And I'd like to hold
8 off on this one for a couple more years to see how the
9 population or how the caribou go before we try to put
10 anymore restrictions on our people with permits like
11 this. You know, I also don't want anymore restrictions
12 on our people to go hunting. So I oppose this.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Kramer
17 had his hand up. Go ahead.

18
19 MR. KRAMER: Okay. I get my hunting
20 license in January, when do the caribou tickets come
21 out?

22
23 MR. HANSEN: To answer that question
24 this is Alex again, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
25 Caribou permits come out July 1st.

26
27 MR. KRAMER: They should come out in
28 January when people get their hunting licenses because
29 that way they're bundled together.

30
31 MR. HANSEN: Thank you for that
32 comment.

33
34 MR. KRAMER: There's no separation. I
35 go into get my hunting license, my caribou ticket
36 should be right next to it. Here you go, both of them
37 together. That way you're saving people that have to
38 repeat and go back. You know, I mean, yeah, they may
39 be only during that specific time too, you know, I
40 mean, unless people are going in for their RM 880s and
41 getting their caribou tickets at the same time. I
42 don't know. But, I mean, trying to bundle them
43 together makes it easier on people and it makes it less
44 for you to have to fly out there to make sure and
45 ensure that people are -- you know, it's about
46 simplicity. We.....

47
48 MR. HANSEN: Right.

1 MR. KRAMER:want to make sure we
2 don't make our people criminals for, you know,
3 something that an agency doesn't want to do.
4

5 MR. HANSEN: And just to maybe further
6 answer your question there, you know, in January you
7 can certainly pick up the caribou permit which would be
8 good through the end of the year, the calendar or their
9 fiscal year, I mean. So that permit would be good
10 through June 30th, but you would have to pick up the
11 new permit in July. But as you mentioned, you know,
12 giving those permits out when people are in the office
13 for RM 880s is one of the tools we've been using this
14 year as well. So when people come in we offer them
15 that caribou permit.
16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.
18

19 MR. HANSEN: And just to mention
20 there's no charge on this caribou permit, it's a free
21 permit.
22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Calvin, she
24 had her hand up first.
25

26 MS. MAAS: No, he covered it.
27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, he covered it.
29 Okay. Go ahead. Go ahead, Calvin, you're next.
30

31 MR. MOTO: What I was wondering also is
32 on those permits they allow one permit for muskox for
33 elders. But I got one one time. But if you're an
34 elder and you got a permit you had to follow the
35 hunters, you had to ride with the hunter to get the
36 muskox. Will I be able to do that with caribou, you
37 know, because we're allowed so many the next year we
38 can't get a permit for muskox, but we have to wait a
39 couple years. Just will it be the same way or what?
40

41 MR. HANSEN: Mr. Moto, addressing your
42 question. The caribou permits are available every
43 year. You can get, you know, as I mentioned before, as
44 many as you need. So, you know, and I think you were
45 talking maybe about proxy hunting with the elders, is
46 that the question you had regarding muskox? In similar
47 way, you know, these caribou permits can use -- can be
48 used through a proxy hunt system, through the
49 application for the program.
50

1 MR. MOTO: Well, I have a lifetime
2 hunting license so I don't -- I could follow any
3 (indiscernible).

4
5 MR. HANSEN: That is correct, Mr. Moto.
6 With your lifetime hunting license you are well
7 equipped to use these caribou registration permits.

8
9 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.
12 Someone had their hand up. Go ahead, Percy.

13
14 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, and their trip is
15 they -- I oppose this proposal too. It's getting
16 harder and harder for us village folks. We're lucky
17 right now and I don't know how long it could last that
18 we have a vendor here because he has a job here in the
19 BIA office and of course we do have opportunity to go
20 NANA resource and get that -- some of that stuff, but
21 that's not always the case. There's always something
22 that it was hard for the permits and everybody -- I
23 knew everybody wasn't following the rules. But
24 Buckland has a history of doing surveys and we work
25 with Fish and Game and some others on these surveys and
26 it always has worked for information sharing and stuff.
27 So I don't know why we need to put a little more deal
28 under it so I'm going to be in favor of opposing this
29 proposal.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy. Go
32 ahead, you have the floor.

33
34 MR. BALLOT: I mean, opposing. Yeah,
35 opposing this proposal. Yeah.

36
37 MS. ROBISON: This is Hillary Robison
38 from the National Park Service. I just wanted to
39 follow-up with what someone has said about the intent
40 of the information. The intent of the permit is to get
41 more information about the herd in a more timely manner
42 because the household surveys that we've heard
43 mentioned here don't happen every year, they happen
44 every four years or five years. And so we don't get
45 information in a timely way. So for example in other --
46 in Canada for example they have really good reporting
47 so they don't have to guess how many animals are being
48 harvested out of the population and make decisions
49 under uncertainty that here we're having to make

50

1 decisions under uncertainty and so we assume -- we're
2 assuming people based on these harvest surveys that
3 happen every four to five years, we're basing our
4 information off of that. And so if we have better
5 information we have a better handle on the harvest and
6 people may be able to harvest more animals because we
7 have information. But when we lack good information
8 then we have to make very conservative decisions to
9 conserve better. So the intent is to have better, more
10 timely information so that we're making decisions that
11 are -- have an underpinning of more understanding
12 instead of its guessing or not guessing, but based on
13 longer range data that's not as timely. So that is the
14 intent of the proposal is to get timely information so
15 we can make better management decisions to conserve the
16 herd, not to make criminals out of anybody.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. I
19 -- we need to go on with this proposal. We need to
20 call for question on proposal 18-48 and 49. I need to
21 call for a question, one of the board members, please.

22
23 Go ahead, Vern.

24
25 MR. CLEVELAND: I thought I.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You had -- I thought
28 you had your hand up.

29
30 MR. CLEVELAND: Then I'll call for
31 question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question's been
34 called for. We need a roll call vote on this.

35
36 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. This is the roll
37 call vote on wildlife proposal 18-48/49 requiring
38 registration permit for caribou hunting in units 22, 23
39 and 26A. I will start the call for -- the roll call
40 with Member Cleveland.

41
42 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes.

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Member Mitchell, has he
45 stepped out.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: He went to the potty.

48
49 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. Member Kramer.

50

1 MR. KRAMER: Oppose.
2
3 MR. STEVENSON: And to clarify, Member
4 Cleveland, you are -- you voted?
5
6 MR. KRAMER: Yes.
7
8 MR. STEVENSON: Yes. Thank you. Mr.
9 Chair.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oppose.
12
13 MR. STEVENSON: Beverly Moto.
14
15 MS. MOTO: Oppose.
16
17 MR. STEVENSON: Calvin Moto.
18
19 MR. MOTO: Oppose.
20
21 MR. STEVENSON: Member Commack.
22
23 MR. COMMACK: Oppose.
24
25 MR. STEVENSON: Percy Ballot.
26
27 MR. BALLOT: No.
28
29 MR. STEVENSON: We're waiting on Member
30 Mitchell. Could someone see if he's available?
31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I need a guy to go
33 check on Enoch. Vern will check on -- Vern will check
34 on him in a minute. We'll wait a minute for his vote.
35
36 MR. STEVENSON: Want to take a five
37 minute break?
38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, I think it's
40 better off if we wait I think.
41
42 MR. STEVENSON: Okay.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's what I'm
45 saying.
46
47 MR. STEVENSON: Okay.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So we'll take a
50

1 moment of -- man, silence is golden right now.

2

3 MR. CLEVELAND: He's on the phone.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Maybe you could
6 inform.....

7

8 MR. STEVENSON: Sure.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:how many opposed
11 and how many voted.

12

13 MR. STEVENSON: So through the Chair.
14 Enoch, we were taking a roll call vote on wildlife
15 proposal 18-48/49 requiring the registration permit for
16 caribou hunting in units 22, 23 and 26A. So far the
17 roll call vote reflects seven opposed. How do you cash
18 your vote?

19

20 MR. MITCHELL: Opposed.

21

22 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead. And
25 you're the one that -- yeah, he voted yes. Yeah, we
26 know that, yeah.

27

28 MR. STEVENSON: But.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy.

31

32 MR. STEVENSON: Correction, Mr. Chair.
33 The vote tally reflects seven opposed to 18-48/49 and
34 one in favor of 18 48/49. The nays have it and 18-
35 48/49 fails.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. I
40 think we need to go on a break. We'll say five
41 minutes, it'll last 15 minutes so we'll take 15 minute
42 break.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.

2
3 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. I'm calling
4 on the speaker phone right now to see if we have
5 through Marcy Okada Anette -- Dr. Anette Watson on the
6 line.

7
8 Are you there on the phone, can you
9 hear us, Anette? Anette, can you hear us?

10
11 Marcy, this is Zach, is Anette with us?

12
13 MS. OKADA: Hi, Zach. This is March.

14
15 MR. STEVENSON: Hi, Marcy. I'm calling
16 to see if Anette Watson's on the line.

17
18 MS. OKADA: And she will be calling in
19 if she hasn't called in.....

20
21 DR. WATSON: I'm in now.

22
23 MS. OKADA: Okay.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. You have
26 the floor.

27
28 DR. WATSON: Thank you. My name's
29 Anette Watson and I've had the pleasure of working in
30 Interior Alaska and Northwest Alaska for the last 10
31 years. And I'm reporting on the work that I did for
32 Gates of the Arctic National Park called Ethnographic
33 Overview and Assessment of Gates of the Arctic National
34 Park and Preserve. And this is a study of land use by
35 Inupiaq communities and Koyukon communities living on
36 both the Kobuk River and the Koyukuk River. And this
37 project was designed and completed in partnership with
38 the eight tribes in the study, the Native Village of
39 Evansville, the Native Village of Alatna, the Allakaket
40 Tribe, the Hughes Tribe, the Huslia Tribe, the Native
41 Village of Kobuk, the Native Village of Shungnak and
42 the Native Village of Ambler. And usually regulatory
43 management of course as you know occurs on a seasonal
44 or yearly basis, but this project aims to provide a
45 much larger spacial and temporal scale to understand
46 how subsistence economies work.

47
48 And so what I was able to do with the
49 tribes is to review oral history, ethnographics data
50

1 and a bunch of archival sources to provide an overview
2 of the last 8,000 years of the boundary between Inupiaq
3 and Athabascan peoples in this region and provide a
4 more detailed narrative of land use over the last 200
5 years and then finally a deeper analysis of the last 35
6 years of change through GIS spacial mapping. And on
7 the report provided there are two of the overall land
8 use maps that were produced through this project. I
9 interviewed approximately between 70 and 80 people
10 across the eight villages and asked them what their
11 lifetime use areas are for each species that they
12 utilize for subsistence. And so the first map you see
13 is an overall project area, land use between the Kobuk
14 and Koyukuk Rivers and then on the second pages shows
15 that pattern superimposed over land management
16 boundaries. A couple of things to note. I'm also able
17 and will provide to all tribes and agencies the GIS
18 spacial data base created through the work that I did,
19 but we made over a hundred maps to provide an analysis
20 of how different species are used over time in that 35
21 year time span.

22
23 The -- in some of the insights that
24 were achieved through this method are probably no
25 surprise to anybody sitting there as a manager on the
26 RAC board, but what we were trying to do is to document
27 evidence of how subsistence works and how it's changed
28 over time and how it persists. One of the insights is
29 certainly that subsistence as a way of life is very
30 sensitive in response to the cash economy and other
31 changes in the social system as well as changes in the
32 ecosystem such as through climate change. Changes in
33 places that might seem far away are shown to have very
34 significant affects within the study area. And so the
35 maps in the project show these reactions to changes,
36 but they're not any evidence of any decrease in the
37 ways and wants of people to do subsistence.

38
39 The cultural resource shows that
40 adoption of transportation technologies is merely a
41 strategy of adaptation in the face of a more
42 centralized village life. And so it -- technology is
43 not a means to harvest more than what is needed by a
44 family and for cultural tradition, it's only been a key
45 strategy to adapt to things like the rigidity of school
46 calendars as well as a centralized home. Adjusting to
47 the centralized life in the villages has really only
48 been able because of the consistency of the Western
49 Arctic caribou herd over time and through these
50

1 territories although now we certainly know that people
2 are reporting that they are having much -- more and
3 more difficulties in harvesting the caribou at least
4 among those three upper Kobuk River villages. And so
5 the projects note that living in these centralized
6 villages has made the subsistence economy more
7 vulnerable to these ecological and social changes over
8 the longer temporal spacial scales.
9

10 And so in conclusion there's a -- just
11 a couple of different things I'll just review briefly
12 and open for questions. But really people living in
13 centralized villages should be and we talk about in the
14 study some strategies to increase access to game and
15 that will provide more ability to adapt to some of the
16 changes that people are reporting on. And in general
17 people are reporting and this project does support that
18 the folks are having an increase in food insecurity in
19 the region.
20

21 And so with that I'll just stop there
22 and take any questions at this point.
23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone from the board
25 have questions for her?
26

27 Go ahead, Louie.
28

29 MR. COMMACK: Thank you. Ma'am, I'm
30 looking at a map now. I'm looking at State lands
31 surrounding Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk. These are
32 traditional hunting grounds, sacred sights, waterways,
33 food security. My concern is with the amount of
34 population that would hit our people, our region or
35 upper Kobuk, how would that change the dynamics of our
36 livelihood?
37

38 DR. WATSON: Your question's about how
39 would what change the dynamics?
40

41 MR. COMMACK: If we have influx of
42 populations, roads, (indiscernible - simultaneous
43 speech).....
44

45 DR. WATSON: Well, this project wasn't
46 aiming to talk too much about what the impact could be,
47 but certainly what you do see is that subsistence takes
48 places over that entire area that the road is being
49 proposed to go. And the project does show which
50

1 subsistence resources are utilized within that study
2 area and it will be able to be analyzed by the folks
3 that are doing that impact assessment for the road
4 coming up. And I will be sharing all of this
5 information with the BLM who I think is the party that
6 will be developing more -- some additional work on the
7 impact assessment on the road. But certainly the whole
8 entire area is as you say a traditional use area and
9 there will be likely some impact.

10
11 MR. COMMACK: Yes. I -- with the many
12 meetings we had in upper Kobuk and the State lands that
13 surround the three villages my main concern is the
14 population, people getting on the road, mining claims,
15 all that other stuff. And it will compete with our
16 traditional way of life which is hunting, fishing,
17 gathering. These are my concerns.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Louie. If
20 the haul road is built I'm worried about hunters being
21 dropped off like they do with the railroad after so
22 many years. Is that going to make a change or is that
23 the restriction where outsiders can't use the road for
24 so many years?

25
26 DR. WATSON: It's certain -- I don't
27 have an answer to that because that's not what my
28 project was necessarily about although certainly a lot
29 of the people that I spoke with were deeply concerned
30 about outside hunters impacting subsistence in the
31 area. And I have absolutely in this report documented
32 that history over time of outsider subsistence users
33 coming into the area and exactly what types of
34 disturbances are being reported when folks are coming
35 in that don't -- that are not living in and from those
36 village communities. So there will be opportunity to
37 really articulate what those impacts could be if the
38 road is built.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Louie.
41 We'll get.....

42
43 MR. COMMACK: Yes, my answer to that,
44 if one dime is spent on the road on -- using public
45 funds then the whole would be invited. If they're
46 talking about private road that's not the case.
47 They'll tell us that it'll be a private road, but I
48 don't believe them for one second. They'll be public
49 funds being used for that road, that means the whole
50

1 road will be looking at it for usage. Again I state
2 that we're surrounded by State land. It's a threat to
3 our way of life.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Louie. Go
8 ahead. You have the floor. Vern, you'll be next.

9
10 MS. MILLION: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
11 My name's Bonnie Million, I'm the field manager for the
12 BLM Anchorage field office. The BLM is the lead agency
13 on this application. And just to answer some of the
14 initial questions we were going to give a little bit of
15 an update during our agency report, but I'm more than
16 happy to step in here for a bit.

17
18 We are processing an application from
19 the Alaskan Industrial Development and Export
20 Authority. And currently the application as it stands
21 before us is that the proposal would be an industrial
22 access road only and not a public access road as the
23 application currently stands. I hope that's helpful.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Louie.

26
27 MR. COMMACK: Yes. So what you're
28 saying is the people with mining claims are not allowed
29 on that road?

30
31 MS. MILLION: I believe my
32 understanding is that anybody who has mining claims
33 that would be accessed by the road would be allowed to
34 use.....

35
36 MR. COMMACK: Of course.

37
38 MS. MILLION:would be allowed to
39 use the road, but general public would not.

40
41 MR. COMMACK: And AIDEA's aware of
42 this?

43
44 MS. MILLION: Yes.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Vern.

47
48 MR. CLEVELAND: Vern Cleveland. I was
49 in the city council 1978 in Shungnak and they brought
50

1 this up, the road. The didn't even stay a minute in
2 the office, I had to escort them back to the airport
3 and get them out of there. They didn't want -- they
4 didn't want the road.....

5
6 MS. MILLION: No.

7
8 MR. CLEVELAND:because of a lot
9 of issues. And still up to today we're still opposing
10 this road. We're fighting because of the way we live.
11 I used to live in Shungnak, I'm originally from
12 Shungnak, but I lived in Noorvik for 30 years. But
13 it's going to make a big change, lot of change inour --
14 in the way we live upriver. And we don't know what
15 they're going to put on the road to keep the dust
16 control and everything. So it -- and it's on the high
17 water bank, if it goes down it's going to go downstream
18 right into our river. There goes our fish, our animal,
19 everything's going to be changed. And to this I'm
20 going to be opposing this road for as long as I could.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. For your
25 information the Council here could write letters to the
26 agency whether they support or -- and their concerns if
27 there's this. And I will say this, if they ever build
28 the road and there's a spill, did they do any study to
29 see how much it impact the whole drainage, all the
30 vehicles from Kobuk, Shungnak, Ambler, Kiana and
31 Noorvik and Kotzebue when the river drains this way and
32 if there's a real dangerous spill that happened in the
33 road how quick will their response be on a spill like
34 that.

35
36 MS. MILLION: Right.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And what's their
39 plan.

40
41 MS. MILLION: Absolutely. Those are
42 all concerns that the BLM will be addressing in the
43 subsequent environmental impact statement analysis will
44 be happening after the public scoping period. But to
45 address, I would encourage any Council who has concerns
46 or input on the project, please do get in touch with
47 the BLM, we will be taking into account all the points
48 and all concerns. And just as an early heads up the
49 BLM will be holding public involvement meetings

50

1 beginning in mid November through mid December in the
2 following communities, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kotzebue,
3 Shungnak and I apologize I am from the east coast so
4 please forgive me if I mispronounce some of these
5 names, Ambler, Kobuk, Wiseman, Bettles, Evansville,
6 Alatna, Allakakek, Anaktuvuk Pass. And then we're also
7 scheduled to present at the Western Arctic caribou herd
8 meeting in Anchorage in December.

9
10 So I have a business card with me with
11 contact information, we have a website set up for the
12 project that has an email address, we take written
13 comments as well so I'll be here all day so please stop
14 by if you would like some more information on it, we
15 have that available.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

18
19 Go ahead, Vern.

20
21 MR. CLEVELAND: Look at Dalton Highway,
22 it made a lot of difference on the folks that live by
23 the highway. And it sure made a big difference on our
24 caribou migration. And is it a private road, I don't
25 think so. I think we got everybody on that road right
26 now. I mean, if we're going to build this road to
27 Ambler mining district with the second best copper in
28 the world and they said railroad, no railroad. Road,
29 no roads.

30
31 I mean, we're still going to fight
32 against this as long as we can.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I hear you.
37 And before I get to you Kramer I will say we need --
38 I'll put a motion on the floor for Zach to write a
39 letter to the agencies of our concerns here from this
40 Council. We will sign it and we need to -- and I think
41 Zach need to work with all of us before he forward the
42 letter on. And we need to each one of us look at it.
43 And we -- Louie's concern, Kramer's concern, Commack's
44 concern might be a little bit different from each
45 other, but that way Zach addresses all at one time in
46 the letter and try to make it powerful as possible I
47 think where we oppose.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 Kramer, you have the floor. You had
2 your hand up.

3
4 MR. KRAMER: You know, I have -- I know
5 that when we're at our State subsistence meeting in
6 Anchorage and I was talking with the guy from Tanana
7 and he was talking about the road going into Tanana
8 and, you know, I haven't heard of any -- you know, what
9 was -- you know, I mean, what kind of problems they're
10 having yet there in Tanana, I don't know if the road's
11 complete. I know that's -- you look at the State of
12 Alaska there's only three roads in the whole entire
13 State that goes horizontal. I mean, two roads. One is
14 the Red Dog Road that has a dramatic impact on our
15 caribou herd already and then this one possibly going
16 to Tanana. We have learned that any horizontal roads
17 going across the State is -- has somewhat of a major
18 impact on some type of migration or another type of
19 migration of people to rural areas. You know, the
20 horizontal road is the Dalton Highway that goes from
21 Fairbanks to Hooper Bay, you know, that has had
22 somewhat of an impact on the Porcupine herd. The
23 Porcupine herd has to go from one -- has to cross the
24 road and then go into Canada. I know that they were
25 having some difficulty with that road there. You know,
26 over the last 15 years I've seen a dramatic decrease in
27 caribou coming our way due to the Red Dog Road. And
28 there was many times where I tried to have the last
29 caribou biologist admit it, but he didn't want to admit
30 it, that this road was having a severe problem with our
31 caribou being bouncing off that road and having to go
32 the long way around. And that's completely directing
33 and deflecting our caribou and to migrate a different
34 route that's farther away from us.

35
36 You know, I oppose this road.

37
38 You know, I mean, once the road is --
39 once the mining is done and after the land is raped
40 what's going to happen, it's going to become a public
41 road. You know, what -- we're going to get the shaft.
42 You know, once this road goes in and our caribou herd
43 is gone, what's the State going to do for us, nothing.
44 They ain't going to do anything for us, they got their
45 benefits out of the deal, full pockets. I know that a
46 lot of the State funds would go to, you know, education
47 and all that other stuff, but I think it's time for the
48 State to find other means of getting funds from
49 somewhere else.

50

1 That's all.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. And now
4 we need to go back to my motion for Zach to write a
5 letter hearing the Council's concerns. So I need a
6 second.

7
8 MR. KRAMER: Second.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I heard a second. I
11 need.....

12
13 MR. COMMACK: Discussion.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:discussion.

16
17 Go ahead, Louie.

18
19 MR. COMMACK: Yesterday we had a
20 discussion on the impact of the State lands having upon
21 the upper Kobuk. Yesterday we had a lengthy discussion
22 and a vote. In your letter I want you to notify the
23 tribal governments of upper Kobuk on the vote yesterday
24 with your signature.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

27
28 MR. COMMACK: We had a discussion on
29 the State land, how it potentially good start opening
30 up to big game hunters. Make sure you include the
31 vote. I abstained.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I hear you. Thank
34 you, Louie.

35
36 Go ahead, Enoch.

37
38 MR. MITCHELL: I agree with what
39 Councilman Freedman (ph) said about the stuff that goes
40 on the road that might potentially go into the river.
41 You know, a few years back I hear that they're going to
42 build this road and around Ambler there's a lot of
43 asbestos in the soil, in the gravel that they're going
44 to be using for the road. Is that true?

45
46 MS. MILLION: I apologize, I'm not
47 sure. I don't know, but I can check into that for the
48 Council for sure.

49
50

1 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. And then further
2 on is that, you know, the sheefish from the Cold Creek
3 migrate all the way up past Shungnak in the fall. And
4 they go lay their eggs up there. And I believe, you
5 know, and that's a delicacy for a lot of Natives that
6 harvest this. And they've got a lot of suuvak in there
7 and that's real good food there. And that if something
8 happen to this, you know, like you say if there is a
9 spill there's some kind of contaminants that goes into
10 the river from on the road or from what they're hauling
11 because I know there's a lot of stuff that fall off
12 from the haul trucks to the road, lots of toxins. And
13 as time goes by like 20 years all that toxin that fall
14 off those trucks and all that rain that come down it
15 will kind of move to the river, every -- all the water
16 come down to the river eventually. So whatever falls
17 off that truck going to eventually end up in the river.
18 And that might impact the sheefish.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. He's used the
23 native language. And what he meant when he says suuvak
24 is eggs which the sheefish is known for in the
25 falltime. That way you can understand what he said in
26 the Native.

27
28 Okay.

29
30 I'll translate it a little bit, but no
31 more.

32
33 Thank you. Go ahead, Louie.

34
35 MR. COMMACK: And I just want you to
36 know that I'll be attending Gates of the Arctic
37 Subsistence Commission on 12/13 in Fairbanks. Again
38 this subject will come up. I've been the Chair for
39 three years, I finally got off last year so we got a
40 new Chair from North Slope. So it's a discussion issue
41 that we've been talking about. We have to pick the
42 road that splits off from the Preserve. And what I'm
43 hearing from upper Kobuk is they want the northern
44 route, not the southern route, that's what I've been
45 hearing. Again we have a lot of data -- collected a
46 lot of data on behalf of our people, how many rivers
47 it's going to cross, how many streams it's going to
48 cross, how much it's going to cost, the maintenance,
49 the villages impacted, we're still gathering data.

50

1 So I'll just do the best I can next
2 week and go from there.

3
4 Thank you very much for allowing me to.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Louie.
7 And now we need to go back to my motion. I need to
8 call for a question for Zach to write a letter to the
9 agencies. My motion was really was for Zach to write a
10 letter, for what the concerns they're hearing here.
11 That way.....

12
13 MR. KRAMER: Second.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And it's second by
16 Kramer.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: All in favor of this
19 letter signify by saying aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 MR. CLEVELAND: I'll call for question.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: There was a question
26 called for, but you didn't hear it.

27
28 MR. COMMACK: Mr. Chairman, point of
29 clarification. This letter will be carbon copied to
30 the villages or upper Kobuk or the whole region, you
31 mentioned the Kobuk River villages will be impacted and
32 Kotzebue?

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah I meant the.....

35
36 MR. COMMACK: Carbon copies should be
37 sent.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:letter will
40 be.....

41
42 MR. COMMACK:to the tribes in
43 each village. My request.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

46
47 MR. COMMACK: He's taking notes.

48
49 MR. CLEVELAND: And the Western Arctic
50

1 Caribou Herd Working Group?

2
3 MR. COMMACK: Yes.

4
5 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm waiting for him
8 to finish writing. Yeah, go ahead. Thank you. So it
9 passed. All in favor, right, signify by saying aye and
10 it passes unanimously.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 So we need to go back to agenda.

15
16 MR. COMMACK: Thank you very much.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And thank you,
19 radioland, for making your time available on this BLM
20 important rule that's going to impact our people.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 Now we need to go back to our agenda.
25 Where were -- okay. We need to go to agenda.

26
27 WP 18-32.

28
29 Go ahead, Zach.

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Yes, that brings us to wildlife proposal 18-32 which is
33 on page 203, 203 of your meeting books. And wildlife
34 proposal 18-32 address aligning season dates for
35 caribou in 21D, that's 21 delta, 22, 23, 24, 25A,
36 that's 25 alpha, West, 26A and 26B, to be addressed by
37 Lisa Maas, biologist with the Office of Subsistence
38 Management.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead.

43
44 MS. MAAS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair,
45 members of the Council. Again for the record my name
46 is Lisa Maas. And the final caribou proposal is WP 18-
47 32 and again that's on page 203 of your meeting book.

48
49 Wildlife proposal 18-32 was submitted

50

1 by the Western Interior Council and requests changes to
2 caribou season dates in units 21D, 22, 23, 24, 25A
3 West, 26A and 26B. The proponent requested these
4 season changes to protect cows during migration, avoid
5 migration deflection due to hunting and prohibit bull
6 harvest when bulls are unpalatable. The proponent also
7 intends to submit a proposal to the Alaska Board of
8 Game to align State caribou seasons with these proposed
9 Federal seasons.

10
11 And for the record I'll let the Council
12 decide whether they would like to address all units
13 covered by the proposal or only unit 23. Could we just
14 get that on the record?

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

17
18 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Go ahead,
21 Zach.

22
23 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. For
24 clarification Lisa's asking whether the Council wants
25 to address all of the units right now or would the
26 Council prefer just to address unit 23, our region.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I'll answer
29 that. I will worry only about unit 23. I can't tell
30 other units what should be their opening dates. True
31 that the migration route some places might be rut by
32 the time the other -- our resource go up there.

33
34 But it's just so -- let's worry about
35 unit 23 only.

36
37 MS. MAAS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 In 2015 the Alaska Board of Game restricted caribou
39 regulations in units 21D, 22, 24, 26A and B, in
40 response to population declines of the Western Arctic
41 and Teshekpuk caribou herds. In 2016 the Federal
42 Subsistence Board adopted similar regulation
43 restrictions across the ranges of these declining herd.
44 A lot of time and effort were spent in crafting both
45 Federal and State restrictions by herding unit in
46 response to local needs and seasonal caribou movements.
47 This proposal affects units within the Western Arctic,
48 Teshekpuk and Central Arctic caribou herds.

49
50

1 Caribou migration routes, timing and
2 the number of caribou migrating on a particular route
3 vary each year. Different caribou herds also have
4 different migration patterns and timing. A long held
5 cultural practice is to allow lead cow caribou to
6 establish migratory pathways undisturbed.

7
8 Adopting this proposal would increase
9 regulatory complexity by misaligning State and Federal
10 caribou seasons across several units. The affect of
11 these regulation changes would be limited as all users
12 could hunt under State regulations. One size fits all
13 regulations are not appropriate. Two years ago a lot
14 of time and effort were spent in crafting caribou
15 regulations specific to caribou herd seasonal movements
16 and local needs. While the proposed season changes may
17 avoid migration deflections and aid in population
18 recovery by reducing cow harvest, migrating cow caribou
19 could still be disturbed by users hunting bulls. And
20 it would put a substantial burden on Federally-
21 qualified subsistence users who must now distinguish
22 between bull and cow caribou. Federal regulations
23 would also become more restrictive than State
24 regulations, eliminating the subsistence priorities.

25
26 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
27 oppose proposal WP 18-32.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So I need
32 to go to the tribes. Anyone from the tribes.

33
34 MS. MAAS: No, Mr. Chair. There's no
35 tribal or ANCSA corporation comments.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Tribes or ANCSA you
38 said. Okay. Thank you.

39
40 Then we will go to ADF&G.

41
42 MR. HANSEN: Yes, for the record this
43 is Alex Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
44 Kotzebue. I'm the biologist for the Western Arctic
45 caribou herd.

46
47 And I guess it's the opinion of the
48 local office, you know, I have -- we have some concerns
49 about this regulation change as we're seeing this year

50

1 the caribou migrating a little bit later and we already
2 have people -- a closure on State lands being October
3 14. My concern is that maybe the harvest will be
4 shifted to cows. And with that taking place, you know,
5 that's really what's going to impact the population.
6 And I do like, you know, the idea of, you know, working
7 to conserve cows, but I think there's a more
8 constructive way to go about this.

9
10 It's also helpful to keep the State and
11 Federal seasons aligned and it makes it easier for
12 people to understand and to keep themselves out of
13 trouble.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. We
18 have the opportunity now for Federal comments, the
19 Federal agency comments.

20
21 MS. ROBISON: Mr. Chair, this is
22 Hillary Robison with the National Park Service. This
23 proposal as written was submitted to protect
24 migrations. And like Alex I -- it's important to
25 thinking about how we can conserve cows because they're
26 the engine of the population and how the population
27 replaces itself. However closing the cow season after
28 February 1st, the migration typically starts two months
29 after that time. And so closing the season after
30 February 1st is not going to help that, it's not going
31 to protect migration. So the intent of this proposal,
32 it's not really going to work the way it's been
33 proposed.

34
35 So just wanted the Council to have that
36 for consideration.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Now we
39 need to go to tribal.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: None from the tribal.

44
45 We've got to hear other regional
46 councils.

47
48 Go ahead, Zach.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 The Seward Peninsula voted to opposed wildlife proposal
3 18-32 and the Western Interior Regional Advisory
4 Council voted to oppose 18-32 as well noting the
5 proposal's premature.
6

7 Would those on the phone please press
8 star six to mute their phone because we're getting some
9 interruption. Would you please press star six to mute
10 your phone.
11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Hello, Percy, you
13 need to mute -- hello, Percy, you need to mute your
14 phone, we can hear you. Percy. Percy. Percy, you
15 need to mute your phone please, we can hear you
16 talking.
17

18 MR. BALLOT: Oh, I'm sorry. We got
19 carried away a little bit.
20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Now we've got secrets
22 you don't hear.
23

24 (Laughter)
25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.
27

28 MR. STEVENSON: Thanks.
29

30 MR. BALLOT: I haven't seen my
31 granddaughter for a long time.
32

33 MR. STEVENSON: So Western Interior
34 voted to oppose 18-32.
35

36 They noted the proposal's premature and
37 may have some vitality some day if the herd continues
38 to decline, but there needs to be a stronger -- a
39 longer period I should say to allow recent regulatory
40 actions to take effect and see how they affect the
41 populations. The discussion included recent changes by
42 the Alaska Board of Game on how cow harvest has led to
43 the migration so shooting bulls does not affect the
44 caribou migration. It was also noted that the Board of
45 Game and Federal Subsistence Board need to understand
46 caribou better to overcome this perception that drive
47 regulatory management decisions.
48

49 Further emphasis needs to be on
50

1 protecting females or cows.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Okay.

6

7 We need to hear from the SRCs.

8

9 MS. ATKINSON: Thank you. This is
10 Hannah Atkinson with the National Park Service. I have
11 the comment from Cape Krusenstern National Monument
12 Subsistence Resource Commission. The Commission voted
13 to oppose the proposal with the reasoning that they
14 want the season dates to stay the way they are
15 currently listed in regulation.

16

17 Kobuk Valley National Park Subsistence
18 Resource Commission voted to oppose the proposal.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

21

22 MS. ATKINSON: Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you.

25

26 Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MR. STEVENSON: SRCs.

31

32 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

35

36 MS. OKADA: This is Marcy Okada with
37 the National Park Service.

38

39 And Gates of the Arctic National Parks
40 Subsistence Resource Commission had the following
41 comments on WP 18-32. Local people try to harvest
42 caribou when they are in the area because when the
43 caribou are gone, they're gone. Local people try to
44 get enough caribou for their subsistence needs and
45 sometimes that means harvesting cows when they are near
46 communities. The current regulation states that cows
47 may be taken, but not cows with calves.

48

49 And that's it.

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
4
5 Now any written public comments.
6
7 Zach.
8
9 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. We
10 did not receive any written comments.
11
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
15
16 Anyone from the public.
17
18 MR. L. KRAMER: Yes, Mr. Chair. My
19 name is Lane Kramer, I represent myself here.
20
21 And I too would oppose this because it
22 crosses too many game management units and we can't
23 tell others what their timing season should be. That
24 just depends on each unit according to their migration
25 timing. And I totally oppose this.
26
27 Thank you.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Okay.
30
31 Number 7.
32
33 Go ahead, Zach.
34
35 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36
37 This is the opportunity for the Council
38 to recommend a motion on proposal 18-32.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Do we have a motion
41 on the floor on 18-32.
42
43 Go ahead, Vern.
44
45 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move on 18-32.
46
47 MR. MITCHELL: Second.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Motion by
50

1 Vern, second by Enoch. Okay. The floor is now open
2 for discussion.

3
4 Go ahead, Vern.

5
6 MR. CLEVELAND: On discussion I'm not
7 going to make any moves on 22nd -- I mean, unit 22 or
8 26A, it's just going to be unit 23, right? Thank you.
9 Just on unit 23, I'm not going to make decisions for 22
10 or 26A, 26B, just for unit 23.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That was the only --
15 okay. Thank you. Thank you, Vern. Anyone else.

16
17 Go ahead, Enoch.

18
19 MR. MITCHELL: Yes, I'd like to change
20 that (indiscernible) to female to aid the herd and I
21 believe that during hunting season that they should not
22 hunt females.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. And I
27 also will only vote for unit 23. I won't tell the
28 other units how to do in their area, when to open and
29 close. They know their dates.

30
31 Thank you. Anyone else.

32
33 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
36 Percy.

37
38 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I'm going to be
39 opposed too. I think changing dates, we're having a
40 hard enough time right now and not to mention my
41 granddaughter just come from Deering and they --
42 they're fogged over and they haven't seen very much
43 caribou either.

44
45 So change the time don't make sense so
46 I'm going to be opposed to this proposal.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you. And
49 I will go back to this proposal. And this proposal
50

1 when we came up with the date is that they're starting
2 to have young in their stomach, the females.
3
4 That's my comment.
5
6 Thank you.
7
8 Then I will oppose this also.
9
10 Anyone else.
11
12 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Vern.
15
16 MR. CLEVELAND: I call for question.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question been called
19 for. Where's Enoch. Oh, there he is. We need to vote
20 on this here. And I need to do a roll call vote.
21
22 Go ahead, Zach.
23
24 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 For a roll call vote on wildlife proposal 18-32.
26
27 Starting on my left.
28
29 Member Cleveland.
30
31 MR. CLEVELAND: Oppose.
32
33 MR. STEVENSON: Member Mitchell.
34
35 MR. MITCHELL: Oppose.
36
37 MR. STEVENSON: Member Kramer.
38
39 MR. KRAMER: Oppose.
40
41 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oppose.
44
45 MR. STEVENSON: Beverly Moto.
46
47 MS. MOTO: Oppose.
48
49 MR. STEVENSON: Calvin Moto.
50

1 MR. MOTO: Oppose.
2
3 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Commack.
4
5 MR. COMMACK: Oppose.
6
7 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Ballot. Percy
8 Ballot.
9
10 MR. BALLOT: Oppose. And, Mr.
11 Chairman, can I be excused now for the rest of the day.
12
13 MS. MAAS: He wants to be excused.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You're excused,
16 Percy.
17
18 MR. BALLOT: I think that was the last
19 proposal, right?
20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You're excused,
22 Percy.
23
24 MR. BALLOT: Thank you.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Zach.
27
28 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, the nays
29 have it with unanimous opposition at eight votes to
30 wildlife proposal 18-32.
31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We need to go
35 to WP 18-51, modification of bait on page 395.
36
37 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you, Mr.
38 Chair. Again for the record my name is Lisa Maas. And
39 I'll be presenting a summary of the analysis for
40 wildlife proposal 18-51 which again begins on page 395
41 of the meeting book.
42
43 Wildlife proposal 18-51 was submitted
44 by the Eastern Interior Council as requests that
45 Federal statewide bear baiting restrictions be aligned
46 with State regulations, specifically the use of
47 biodegradable materials. However bear baiting is not
48 permitted in unit 23 under Federal regulations.
49
50

1 Therefore I'll let the Council decide
2 whether they would like to take no action on this
3 proposal or if I should continue with the presentation.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So we
6 need to go to the tribes.

7
8 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair, bear baiting is
9 currently not permitted in unit 23 under Federal
10 regulations. So would the Council like to continue
11 with this proposal as bear baiting isn't permitted here
12 under Federal regs, would you still like to consider
13 this proposal?

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What's the Council
16 think, I can't decide for everybody.

17
18 MR. KRAMER: I think we should
19 continue.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

22
23 MS. MAAS: Okay.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I want to
26 continue.....

27
28 MS. MAAS: Okay.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:I need to hear
31 more from the Council.

32
33 Go ahead, Vern, with what you were
34 going to say.

35
36 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. I'll hear a
37 little bit more on this.

38
39 Thanks.

40
41 MS. MAAS: Okay.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I know it's not
44 -- we didn't pool the rest of us.

45
46 MS. MAAS: Okay. The proponent states
47 that current Federal bear baiting restrictions are more
48 restrictive than the State's and do not provide for a
49 Federal subsistence priority. Aligning State and
50

1 Federal bear baiting restrictions would reduce
2 regulatory complexity and user confusion and allow
3 baiting with items such as dog food, baked goods, et
4 cetera, that have traditionally been used as bear bait
5 by Federally-qualified subsistence users and are
6 currently allowed under State regulations. Federal
7 regulations for bear baiting were adopted from State
8 regulations in 1990 and have not been modified since.

9
10 In 2015 the National Park Service
11 published a final rule prohibiting the take of black
12 and brown bears over bait on National Preserves under
13 State regulations. In 2017 the Park Service published
14 a final rule limiting the types of bait that may be
15 used for taking bears under Federal regulations to
16 native fish or wildlife remains with some exceptions in
17 Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

18
19 Black and brown bears have been
20 traditionally and contemporarily harvested and utilized
21 across much of Alaska using various methods. However
22 the occurrence of bear baiting is limited within
23 published literature and it is unknown whether this
24 method was rarely practiced or just seldom documented.
25 In some cases the bait ingredients are unknown.

26
27 One alternative considered was to
28 define the term scent lure as no definition currently
29 exists under Federal or State regulations. If not
30 defined any material or chemical could be used as
31 registered bait stations including non-biodegradable
32 ones. A proposed definition is scent lure means any
33 biodegradable material to which biodegradable scent is
34 applied or infused.

35
36 If this proposal is adopted Federally-
37 qualified subsistence users could use any biodegradable
38 material as well as scent lures at registered baiting
39 stations on lands administered by the U.S. Fish and
40 Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the
41 U.S. Forest Service. Bear bait is limited to native
42 fish and wildlife remains on National Park Service
43 lands. Adoption of this proposal would not affect Park
44 Service lands. Adoption of this proposal would reduce
45 regulatory complexity and user confusion by aligning
46 State and Federal regulations. As the requested
47 changes are already permitted under State regulations
48 no appreciable differences in bear populations,
49 harvest, subsistence uses or habituation to human foods
50

1 are expected from adopting this proposal.

2
3 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
4 support WP 18-51 with modification to establish a
5 definition for scene lure and to clarify the regulatory
6 language substituting the word wildlife for the terms
7 game, fur animals and small game as these terms are not
8 defined under Federal regulations, but are included in
9 the Federal definition of wildlife.

10
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Then
14 we'll go to the tribes.

15
16 Go ahead, Zach.

17
18 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 There were no comments received from the tribes or
20 ANCSA corporations on wildlife proposal 18-51.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

25
26 Now we'll go to ADF&G.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Looks like no
31 comments from ADF&G, he's shaking his head.

32
33 Yeah, go ahead, Federal.

34
35 MS. ROBISON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 This is Hillary Robison with the National Park Service
37 for the record. To go back to what Lisa Maas from OSM
38 had said, bear baiting is not allowed on Federal lands
39 in unit -- in game management unit 23 which is the unit
40 that we are in here and we're discussing. So any
41 discussion or vote you would have would be affecting
42 outside your area, not in this area that the RAC is
43 discussing proposals.

44
45 In addition to that there are -- bear
46 baiting is not traditional Native hunting methodology
47 especially not from human made foods like doughnuts,
48 popcorn or syrup. And conditioning bears to human
49 foods like that is a bad idea for human safety. We've
50

1 heard throughout -- I've been listening to you all
2 about your concerns about conflicts with bears and this
3 type of rule would exacerbate those, would make those
4 problems worse because you're attracting bears with
5 non-natural foods. But so it's a bad idea to sort of --
6 for human safety and for conflicts to allow those
7 types of things. Also as Lisa pointed out the National
8 Park Service has a regulation that prevents the use of
9 these materials on Park Service lands and additional
10 bear baiting's not allowed on Federal lands in game
11 management unit 23. So this would be a decision that
12 would affect places outside of unit 23, but not within
13 it.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

16

17 MS. MAAS: This is Lisa Maas for the
18 record. And I just wanted to clarify that bear baiting
19 was just recently permitted in unit 23 under State
20 regulations, but not under Federal regulations.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You know, I'm trying
23 to understand this. I understand what you're saying, I
24 know they're not allowed on Federal land, they're
25 allowed on State land. I'm trying to think who did
26 this proposal.

27

28 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. This
29 proposal came from the Eastern Interior Council. And
30 again since just this past season this - bear baiting's
31 permitted in unit 23 under State regulations, that's
32 just this past season that was passed.

33

34 So on BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
35 Service lands you would be able to bait bears under
36 State regulations.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah go ahead,
39 Kramer.

40

41 MR. KRAMER: Hillary, you know, you
42 said when -- I think you mentioned something about non-
43 natural foods. So you're enthrusing us to use caribou
44 hind quarters for bait?

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No.

47

48 MR. KRAMER: Because this is promoting
49 non-natural. So this is.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I hate to -- I hate
2 to stop you, Kramer, keep your train of thought. We
3 will have to take this under.....

4
5 MR. KRAMER: Okay. I was just
6 questioning what she was saying.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Sorry. I need to go
9 through the process. I was laid out by the Federal.
10 We'll take your comment later. Thank you. Keep your
11 train of thought.

12
13 Sorry about that. Now where was I, I
14 was at the Federal. Now I need to go to -- you're
15 done, Federal?

16
17 MS. ROBISON: To speak to Mike's
18 concern which he was starting to talk about, in January
19 2017 the Park Service published a final rule that
20 limits the types of bait that may be used for taking
21 bears under Federal subsistence regulations to Native
22 fish, wildlife remains that exist from natural
23 mortality or remains not required to be salvaged from
24 lawful harvest.

25
26 However the Park Service has a rule
27 that bear baiting is now allowed on Park Service lands
28 in unit 23.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. She heard
31 you. This is under tribal, number 3.

32
33 Anyone from the tribal, Zach.

34
35 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
36 Anyone in the audience or on the teleconference that
37 has any tribal comments they'd like to share regarding
38 wildlife proposal 18-51?

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not we'll go to
43 other regional councils.

44
45 Go ahead, Zach.

46
47 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 Through the Chair.

49
50

1 The Seward Peninsula Subsistence
2 Regional Advisory Council supported wildlife proposal
3 18-51.
4

5 And similarly the Western Interior
6 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council voted to support
7 the proposal as modified by OSM. The Western Interior
8 Council noted that it was throughout the Western
9 Interior region both black and brown bear populations
10 are healthy and harvested below the sustained yield
11 levels. Some interest around Galena has been expressed
12 to use bear bait and this would provide more clarity as
13 to what is allowed in bear baiting and in the use of
14 scent lures. Additional the Western Interior Council
15 notes that the proposal would not adversely affect
16 subsistence resources and provide for more subsistence
17 opportunity. The Western Interior Council's support
18 was also needed for the alignment of State and Federal
19 regulations to reduce regulatory complexity. The issue
20 is not whether to allow bear baiting, but to define
21 what sort of bait is allowed.
22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Fish and
26 Game advisory committees.
27

28 (No comments)
29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Now we need to
31 hear from -- no one came up for the Fish and Game
32 advisory committee. We need SRCs.
33

34 MS. ATKINSON: No comments, Mr. Chair.
35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: None. I get none
37 from SRC.
38

39 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.
40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.
42

43 MS. OKADA: The Gates of the Arctic
44 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission has no
45 comments on this proposal.
46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank
48 you. Summary of written public comments.
49
50

1 Any written comments, Zach.

2
3 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
4 There were three written comments received opposing
5 wildlife proposal 18-51.
6

7 And through the Chair I just received a
8 note with an announcement for the Council if I may
9 share that.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.
12

13 MR. STEVENSON: Apparently someone who
14 has a green Dodge SUV parked at the Wells Fargo Bank
15 across the street needs to be moved so they can do the
16 snow plow. Again anyone who owns a green Dodge SUV
17 parked across the street at the Wells Fargo Bank needs
18 to move their vehicle so they can do the snow plowing.
19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Don't worry,
23 there's no towing truck here anyhow.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MR. STEVENSON: The proposing
28 Council.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, continue
31 that.

32
33 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, as I stated
34 a moment ago there were three comments received
35 opposing wildlife proposal 18-51 and those were from
36 Sean McGuire, it says 159 Kniffen Road, but doesn't
37 specify the city or zip code. Pardon me, it does, out
38 of Fairbanks. The second comment received opposing
39 wildlife proposal 18-51 was from Jim and Suzanne
40 Kowalsky and the third comment received opposing
41 wildlife proposal 18-51 was from Francis Mauer out of
42 Fairbanks as well.
43

44 And they all opposed wildlife proposal
45 18-51.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Now we
48 need to go number 6, public testimony.
49
50

1 Anyone from the audience.

2
3 (No comments)

4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, I'll turn it
6 over back to you, Zach. Number 7.

7
8 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9
10 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark
11 Burch from the Department of Fish and Game. I think we
12 may have missed our first call to comment on this
13 proposal. I wondered with your permission if I could
14 put a little bit on the record.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You have the floor.

17
18 MR. BURCH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll
19 keep it short. The Department of Fish and Game
20 supports this proposal because it reduces regulatory
21 complexity so Federal subsistence users would have
22 consistent rules to operate under where they're allowed
23 to use bait for bears.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Note
28 taken. So number 7, motion.

29
30 Go ahead, Zach.

31
32 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 We now need a motion from the Council on wildlife
34 proposal 18-51.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll make that motion
37 to adopt 18-51.

38
39 MR. STEVENSON: So could you -- could
40 you not hear?

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: He's questioning, I
43 can't.....

44
45 MS. MAAS: Not technically, but we're
46 not really -- we're relaxing Robert's Rules. So.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I'll recall my
49 motion.

50

1 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move on this
2 proposal.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I was just trying to
5 speed up the process.

6
7 Motion by Vern. Do I have a second.

8
9 MR. KRAMER: Second.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Seconded by Kramer.

12
13 MR. STEVENSON: Discussion.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Need to call for a
16 question.

17
18 MR. CLEVELAND: I'll call for question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question's been
21 called for. Any comments from the Council on 18-51.

22
23 Go ahead, Kramer.

24
25 MR. KRAMER: I think we should support
26 this one with OSM's recommendation to, you know, to
27 alleviate all the confusion. I mean, it's already --
28 we might as well just go with OSM's recommendation,
29 that way there's no confusion and there's an alignment.

30
31 There's no differences.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I hear what you're
34 saying and I will say something on it. On our Federal
35 lands here in Northwest Alaska, on the Parklands, they
36 don't allow baiting.

37
38 And I'm going to oppose this.

39
40 Go ahead, Zach.

41
42 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 For clarification the OSM modification is stated on
44 page 402. Again that's page 402 if the Council members
45 wishes to review the OSM proposed modification.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

50

1 Anyone else from this Council.

2
3 Go ahead, Kramer. Need a question to
4 call for roll call.

5
6 MR. CLEVELAND: I thought.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I thought someone
9 questioned that one.

10
11 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah.

12
13 MR. STEVENSON: That's fine. We've
14 already got it, we're good.

15
16 MR. KRAMER: Yeah.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, see, I --
19 that's what I did. And he was trying to say question's
20 been called. And I was trying to understand him.
21 Yeah, question's been called.

22
23 I need a roll call on this 18-51.

24
25 Go ahead, Zach.

26
27 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Through the Chair. With a roll call vote on wildlife
29 proposal 18-51 starting from the left-hand side.

30
31 Member Cleveland.

32
33 MR. CLEVELAND: I'll approve. Yes.

34
35 MR. STEVENSON: Member Mitchell.

36
37 MR. MITCHELL: (In Native)

38
39 MR. STEVENSON: I'm sorry. Member
40 Mitchell, I'm sorry, I didn't catch that.

41
42 MR. MITCHELL: Yes.

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Member
45 Kramer.

46
47 MR. KRAMER: I approve with OSM's
48 recommendations.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll oppose when the
2 right time comes.
3
4 MR. STEVENSON: So, Mr. Chair, you
5 oppose?
6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I oppose.
8
9 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. Member Ballot.
10 Or, I'm sorry, Member Moto.
11
12 MS. MOTO: Yes.
13
14 MR. STEVENSON: Member Moto.
15
16 MR. MOTO: I oppose.
17
18 MR. STEVENSON: Member Cleveland [sic].
19
20 MR. COMMACK: Oppose.
21
22 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. And Member
23 Percy Ballot was excused.
24
25 So the yays have it -- I'm sorry.
26
27 (Whispered conversation)
28
29 MR. STEVENSON: So I had a question for
30 -- that needs some clarification. The -- those that
31 were voting in favor of proposal 18-51, those that --
32 repeat, those who were voting in favor of proposal 18-
33 51, were you voting in favor of the proposal with OSM's
34 modification?
35
36 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes.
37
38 MR. STEVENSON: I'm going to repeat.
39 Those who voted in favor of proposal 18-51 supported
40 the proposal with OSM's modification?
41
42 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes.
43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.
45
46 MR. MITCHELL: Yes.
47
48 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you very much.
49
50

1 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

2
3 MR. STEVENSON: So the tally, through
4 the Chair, shows four votes in support of wildlife
5 proposal 18-51 with OSM's modification and three
6 opposed.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

9
10 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Now back to the
13 agenda. I think we're -- are we done with all the
14 proposals, Zach?

15
16 MS. MAAS: Yes.

17
18 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, we are and that
19 takes us to item -- pardon me, through the Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Zach.

22
23 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 That concludes the Federal wildlife
26 proposals, both regional and crossover.

27
28 And that takes us to item B on agenda
29 item number 11, page 411 in your meeting book, the
30 Fishery Resource Monitoring Program update to be
31 delivered by OSM Anthropology, Dr. Joshua Ream and OSM
32 Fisheries, Jared Stone, will be joining us
33 telephonically. And each of you should have in front
34 of you a green handout that reads at the top Northern
35 Regional Priority Information Needs 2018 and a second
36 page which has a table, it's green, two sided. And the
37 audience should have received that through circulation
38 as well. Is there anyone who has not received that
39 form?

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
44 Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Let me ask about how
47 long these are going to take because it's now 11:30, B
48 and C. If you're having to take off we might as well
49 skip lunch and finish and go home.

50

1 DR. REAM: Mr. Chair, I expect the
2 presentation to take about 10 minutes, 10 to 15
3 minutes, and then however long the discussion takes
4 from the Council.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Go
9 ahead, Zach.

10
11 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 I did want to point out that we have the item number
13 12, agency reports, after this.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Okay. Then
16 that'll take a while.

17
18 Go ahead, do your.....

19
20 DR. REAM: Thank you. Again this is
21 Joshua Ream. I just wanted to make sure that everybody
22 in the audience and the Council members have the green
23 form that Zach mentioned. This is the same information
24 that's found on page 421 and 423 of your Council books,
25 it's just a little easier to find on one page. And if
26 you want to take a moment and just shift so you can see
27 the presentation it might behoove you to do that.
28 Anybody in the audience that can't see either.

29
30 So again my name is Joshua Ream, I'm an
31 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
32 Management and I'm going to walk you through the
33 process of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program so
34 that you can hopefully make some valuable comments to
35 our program today during your meeting.

36
37 If we can go to the second slide,
38 please.

39
40 The goal today is to present you with a
41 brief overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
42 Program and its accomplishments to date. I'll review
43 the funding process, your regional overview and finish
44 up by requesting Council comments on the proposed 2018
45 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in the Northern
46 Alaska region. No motion is necessary, we're simply
47 seeking your comments. The Fisheries Resource
48 Monitoring Program materials begin on page 411 of your
49 Council book. Copies for those attending can be found
50

1 on the table at the back of the room.

2

3

Next slide.

4

5 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
6 Program is a multi disciplinary, collaborative effort
7 that enhances subsistence fisheries research and
8 provides necessary information for the management of
9 subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands in
10 Alaska. We encourage partnerships between Tribes,
11 rural organizations, universities and Federal and State
12 agencies. In addition we encourage interdisciplinary
13 approaches to conducting research and to addressing
14 fisheries issues.

15

16

Next slide.

17

18 The Monitoring Program is administered
19 through the Office of Subsistence Management in order
20 to advance projects of strategic importance to the
21 Federal Subsistence Management Program. It also
22 coordinates communications and information sharing of
23 ongoing and new subsistence research efforts in the
24 region.

25

26

Next slide.

27

28 Since its inception in 2000 the
29 Monitoring Program has funded 452 projects statewide
30 with a total allocation of close to \$117 million. The
31 following figures demonstrate both the allocation of
32 funds and the number of projects funded through the
33 monitoring program by the organization of the principal
34 investigator.

35

36

Next slide.

37

38 This slide demonstrates the allocation
39 of funds by region. Budget guidelines provide an
40 initial target for planning however they are not final
41 and are often adjusted as needed to ensure that we fund
42 quality projects.

43

44

Next slide.

45

46 And so we'll just walk through the
47 process of how the funding works.

48

49

Next slide.

50

1 The State is divided into six regions
2 that approximately correspond to Federal subsistence
3 fisheries areas and to stock, harvest and community
4 issues that these areas hold in common.

5
6 Next slide.

7
8 By the way the northern region consists
9 of the Northwest Arctic, the Seward Penn and the North
10 Slope RAC regions. For each of the six regions Office
11 of Subsistence Management staff work with regional
12 advisory councils and Federal and State fishery and
13 land managers to ensure the monitoring program focuses
14 on the highest priority subsistence fishery information
15 needs. Input and guidance from councils are used to
16 develop priority information needs by identifying
17 issues of local concern and knowledge gaps related to
18 subsistence fisheries. Ideally principal investigators
19 will work closely with councils in order to develop
20 strong proposals that are responsive to your needs.
21 The Office of Subsistence Management provides technical
22 assistance as needed.

23
24 Next slide.

25
26 The programs requests new projects
27 every two years. Submissions must be complete, on time
28 and address five criteria outlined in the notice of
29 funding opportunity in order to be competitive in this
30 process. And those criteria are strategic priority,
31 technical scientific merit, investigator ability and
32 resources, partnership and capacity building and the
33 cost benefit of the projects. A more detailed
34 description of the five criteria can be found on page
35 415 of your Council books.

36
37 Next slide.

38
39 Once submitted a Technical Review
40 Committee evaluates and rates each project on its
41 merits. The Technical Review Committee is a standing
42 Interagency Committee of senior technical experts
43 brought together to ensure program transparency. It is
44 the responsibility of this Technical Review Committee
45 to develop the strongest possible monitoring program
46 for your region and across the State based on high
47 quality, cost effective projects that address critical
48 subsistence questions.

49
50

1 Next slide.

2
3 During the proposal evaluation process
4 the Technical Review Committee adheres to specific
5 guidelines in order to assess how well a project
6 addressed the five criteria. While some agencies may
7 have more than one senior expert on the committee, a
8 social scientist and fishery biologist, each agency
9 only provides one single, consolidated review and will
10 not score their own proposals. The final score for
11 each proposal is based on a assessment of the five
12 criteria.

13
14 Next slide.

15
16 Once a draft Monitoring Program is
17 developed it is brought before the regional advisory
18 councils for your input and your comments. This is
19 where we are at in the current cycle and will come back
20 to this in just a moment.

21
22 Next slide.

23
24 Additional comments on the process and
25 draft 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in the
26 northern Alaska region are provided by the Interagency
27 Staff Committee and these along with those developed by
28 the councils are then forwarded on to the Federal
29 Subsistence Board. The Board takes into consideration
30 comments and concerns generated by the process and
31 endorses the funding plan. The final approval of the
32 funding plan is made by the assistant regional director
33 of OSM.

34
35 Next slide.

36
37 So we'll just walk through the process
38 in the region specific to you which again includes the
39 Seward Peninsula, the Northwest Arctic and the North
40 Slope.

41
42 Next slide.

43
44 In northern Alaska 49 projects have
45 been undertaken for approximately \$12 million in
46 funding to date. Project leads were predominantly held
47 by the State of Alaska or the Department of the
48 Interior. But remember most of these projects also
49 included other agency and Alaska rural organizations as
50

1 research partners.

2

3

Next slide.

4

5

6 For 2018 there is an anticipated one to
7 \$1.5 million available for new projects statewide and
8 up to 1.6 million for ongoing, already funded projects.
9 Please note that the available funding for 2018 is
10 budgeted for each project's first year, not the total
11 project request. For the northern region seven
12 projects were submitted. The projects are listed in
13 order by the strength of their Technical Review
14 Committee scores. Justifications for project order
15 begin on page 424 of your Council books and project
16 abstracts can be found on page 431.

16

17

Next slide.

18

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MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Just to provide a little bit of clarification.

The information that you have before
you addressing the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
Program priority information needs, what you see in
front of you on this list, numbers 1 through 11, were
the priorities that the Council had specified and that
came through consultation going back to winter of 2016.

1 Those 11 items were the priorities that the Council
2 came up with. And what you see in the table are the
3 proposed projects that the Office of Subsistence
4 Management received. And what you see in the left-hand
5 column is the ranking for those various proposals. You
6 can ignore the project ID, that's just used for
7 recordkeeping in our office. The project name there is
8 the project's name for each proposal that we received
9 addressing the Council's priority information that the
10 Council put forward. Next that you see the location of
11 each project proposed and those locations all fall
12 within the northern region geographic scope. Next to
13 the location you see the species and that's the various
14 species that each project proposal addresses. Next to
15 that you see the amount of each proposed project that's
16 been received. And then next to that where it says
17 PIN, the word -- that acronym or abbreviation PIN
18 stands for priority information needs. And again those
19 numbers are the numbers of the prioritization, the PINs
20 that were on this green sheet here.

21
22 And the reason we are sharing this
23 information with the Council is to help illustrate the
24 various projects that we have received align with the
25 priorities that this Council specified.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any
30 questions from the Council.

31
32 This is not for voting or anything,
33 right?

34
35 DR. REAM: Mr. Chair, no, you don't
36 need to make a motion or vote, but if you have any
37 substantive comments on these projects we would
38 definitely appreciate to get them.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any comments or
41 concerns from the Council here.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, I think it's
46 well explained. I'd like to hear some more -- I'd like
47 to see more of that, less questions the faster we go.

48
49 Is there anything else you need to --

50

1 is there anything else you need to do or.....

2
3 DR. REAM: No, sir, that should be
4 everything.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

7
8 MR. STEVENSON: Number 12.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
11 Now we need to go agency reports. And under this for
12 some reason I had trooper written down.

13
14 Go ahead, Clarence, you wanted to say
15 something. Come up the floor.

16
17 MR. SUMMERS: As in the past I know
18 we're going to -- may lose a quorum and I know it's
19 very important to cover at least the SRC appointments.
20 I know Hannah's going to do that.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Turn on your mic,
23 please.

24
25 MR. SUMMER: Mr. Chairman, Council
26 members. My name's Clarence Summers, I'm with the
27 National Park Service.

28
29 I just wanted to bring to your
30 attention your SRC appointments to Cape Krusenstern
31 National Monument and Kobuk Valley National Monument.
32 The membership currently -- the terms are up for -- to
33 be considered for either reappointment or new
34 appointment, but you've got an opportunity as a Council
35 to consider reappointing or at least letting the Park
36 Service know that the membership wants to continue to
37 serve. And I know several of you serve on SRCs.
38 That's my point and the request is that if we've got a
39 quorum now it's a good idea since this is a quote,
40 action item, for you hear to hear from Hannah on the
41 status of your SRCs.

42
43 Thank you very much.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
46 Can you name the appointments from the Council here,
47 that way they will know. I know who they are, but.....

48
49 Yeah, go ahead.

50

1 MS. ATKINSON: Yeah, I have the
2 appointments in front of me. So from -- we'll start
3 with the Cape Krusenstern National Monument Subsistence
4 Resource Commission and the people that are appointed
5 by the Regional Advisory Council are Alex Whiting,
6 Attamuk Shiedt and those are the -- and Enoch Adams was
7 also appointed, but his term expires in 2020. So Alex
8 Whiting and Attamuk Shiedt are up for re-election or
9 reappointment from your Council this year.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

12
13 MS. ATKINSON: Do you want to vote on
14 that and then I'll go on to Kobuk Valley National Park?

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll vote on
17 it. From the Council, do you guys want to appoint
18 someone. I know I was in there and Alex was in there
19 appointed by this Council. It's a well -- it's a nice
20 one to have.

21
22 MR. COMMACK: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Louie.

25
26 MR. COMMACK: Motion for approval. Is
27 that -- you're taking that for reappointment.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think your motion
30 for approval is on whoever was appointed before by this
31 Council, we need to have it from this Council to serve
32 in the SRCs.

33
34 Is that what you're saying, Louie?

35
36 MR. COMMACK: Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,
39 Vern.

40
41 MR. CLEVELAND: Can you explain what
42 SRC is?

43
44 MS. ATKINSON: Yeah, sure. So the
45 Subsistence Resource Commission is an advisory
46 commission to the National Park Service and all the
47 National Monuments and National Parks in Alaska have
48 Subsistence Resource Commissions. They were created in
49 ANILCA. And the reason being that in Cape Krusenstern

50

1 National Monument and in Kobuk Valley National Park the
2 only hunting that happens there is Federal subsistence
3 hunting and so it's managed differently than any other
4 hunting that goes on in game unit 23, game management
5 unit 23. And so we have a Commission that specifically
6 addresses that. One instance that I talked about
7 yesterday was the bear hunting on Kobuk Valley National
8 Park is different than it is on the National Preserve,
9 Noatak National Preserve.

10
11 So the Commissions have nine members on
12 them and there's three appointing sources. We have
13 three members that are appointed from the Governor's
14 Office, the State of Alaska governor, we have three
15 members that are appointed from the Secretary of the
16 Interior and there are three members appointed from the
17 Northwest Arctic RAC. In order to be eligible for
18 appointment by the Northwest Arctic RAC these members
19 have to be a part of a State advisory committee. So
20 the Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee or the Lower
21 Kobuk Advisory Committee or any of the advisory
22 committees throughout the region. And Alex Whiting and
23 Attamuk Shiedt are interested in continuing to serve.

24
25 They've been really fully participating
26 in all the meetings so thanks.

27
28 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank
31 you. Get that, Vern?

32
33 MR. CLEVELAND: (Nods affirmatively)

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I had one, Louie to
36 appointment me and Alex. Let me -- I have a question,
37 on Enoch's appointment, do we need to redo his too,
38 Enoch Adam's?

39
40 MR. SUMMERS: You could reaffirm it,
41 it's okay.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Say again.

44
45 MR. SUMMERS: You could reaffirm that
46 you want him to -- yes. Clarence Summers, National
47 Park Service. Mr. Chairman, Counsel members, you can
48 reaffirm that you want Enoch to continue to serve and
49 that you acknowledge that his term of -- end of term is
50

1 2020. All members serve at the pleasure of the
2 appointing source, in this case it's the Northwest
3 Arctic Regional Advisory Council and so you could do
4 that, you could reaffirm that appointment.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

9
10 Go ahead, Vern.

11
12 MR. CLEVELAND: I make a motion to
13 appoint Enoch Shiedt and Alex Whiting as -- to the SRC.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It was -- Louie did
18 that earlier, I just need a second.

19
20 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Second by
23 Vern.

24
25 MR. COMMACK: Question.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question's been
28 called for. Signify by saying aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
35 Thank you. I'll be happy to serve because I think it's
36 a swell organization to serve and for our local input
37 in our Federal land share.

38
39 Thank you. Anything else?

40
41 MS. ATKINSON: Shall I do the Kobuk
42 Valley National Park appointments?

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

45
46 MS. ATKINSON: These ones are --
47 there's three appointment that need to be reappointed
48 in 2017.

49
50

1 Murphy Custer from Kobuk, his term
2 expires in 2017.

3
4 Louie Commack from Ambler expires in
5 2017.

6
7 Rosa Horner from Kobuk expires in 2017.

8
9 So they're all interested in continuing
10 to serve so you can reappoint all three of them if that
11 is the wish of the Council. And the Kobuk Valley
12 National Park -- they're addressing the subsistence
13 management of Kobuk Valley National Park.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

16
17 Go ahead, Calvin.

18
19 MR. MOTO: I was wondering a few years
20 back we talk about monitoring the herring in our area
21 all the way up from Kotzebue Sound all the way to
22 Herschel Bay. We never heard anything more about it.
23 Also we were.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I hate to.....

26
27 MR. MOTO:we were told of
28 monitoring of whitefish health. So we never did get
29 that again.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Point of order,
32 Calvin. We're.....

33
34 MR. MOTO: I just wanted to bring that
35 up because I don't know.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We're talking
38 about reappointment for the.....

39
40 MR. MOTO: Yeah.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:SRCs.

43
44 MR. MOTO: Yeah, I know that, but I was
45 trying to get it in between, but nobody -- I didn't get
46 a chance to really do it.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You will have a
49 chance at the end of the meeting. Under the closing
50

1 comments. Each Council will have a chance. That's
2 when you can say your.....

3
4 MR. MOTO: I can wait on my comments.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
7 Now where was I. Okay. I need to have a motion to --
8 for the upper Kobuk Valley for the three persons that
9 was mentioned.

10
11 Go ahead, Vern.

12
13 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move on the
14 appointment for Louie Commack, Rosa Horner.....

15
16 MS. ATKINSON: Murphy Custer.

17
18 MR. CLEVELAND:Murphy Custer for
19 the Kobuk National Park.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Do I have a
22 second.

23
24 MR. KRAMER: Second.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

27
28 MR. CLEVELAND: Question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question's been
31 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anything
38 else.

39
40 MS. ATKINSON: Yeah, I have one more
41 comment.

42
43 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.

44
45 MS. ATKINSON: Thank you for your
46 appointments and I wanted to let you know that there
47 are two vacancies on -- there's a vacancy on the Kobuk
48 Valley National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
49 and there's also a vacancy on the Cape Krusenstern

50

1 National Monument Subsistence Resource Commission.
2 That vacancy is appointed by the governor, but there's
3 some information on the back table about it. So it'll
4 talk about the appointments and I even have some
5 applications that go to the Governor's Office. So if
6 you know anyone that wants to apply please talk to me
7 during a break.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Clarence.

10
11 MR. SUMMERS: Yes. Mr. Chairman and
12 Council members, I believe Marcy Okada is online and
13 she may want to bring to your attention any concerns
14 for the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
15 Commission because you make appointments.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Marcy,
20 you have the floor.

21
22 MS. OKADA: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is
23 Marcy Okada with the National Park Service.

24
25 And the Gates of the Arctic National
26 Park Subsistence Resource Commission submitted a letter
27 to the Northwest Arctic RAC and I'll just go ahead and
28 read it. At this time we are submitting a letter from
29 Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource
30 Commission asking for the Northwest Arctic Regional
31 Advisory Council to reappoint one of our Commission
32 members, Louie Commack, Jr. At our last SRC meeting
33 held in Wiseman, Alaska on April 13th, 2017 it was
34 noted that Louie's Commack's term will be expiring on
35 November 4th, 2017. His original appointment source to
36 the SRC was the Northwest Arctic RAC and he would like
37 to continue serving on the SRC.

38
39 So we're requesting at this time for
40 Louie Commack's reappointment to the Gates of the
41 Arctic SRC.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. We need
44 to appoint Louie for the Gates of the Arctic, right,
45 okay.

46
47 Go ahead, Kramer.

48
49 MR. KRAMER: Motion to reappoint Louie

50

1 Commack to the Gates of the Arctic.
2
3 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second.
6
7 MR. CLEVELAND: Call for question.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question's been
10 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 (No opposing votes)
15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Is there
17 anything else?
18
19 MS. OKADA: Thank you.
20
21 MR. SUMMERS: I just want to thank the
22 Chairman and the Council for taking this topic up out
23 of order. Thank you very much for your cooperation and
24 support.
25
26 Thank you again.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So it is now noon,
29 12:00 o'clock. Shouldn't we take a lunch hour. 1:15
30 again, that way if people in the office need to do
31 something in their office we'll give them 15 minutes to
32 do their thing and come back.
33
34 So we'll adjourn the meeting to 1:15
35 this afternoon.
36
37 (Off record)
38
39 (On record)
40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll call this
42 meeting back to order at 1:18 in the afternoon. And,
43 Zach, see -- where am I at, Zach?
44
45 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 We're on item number 12. Under agency reports we're
47 now at tribal governments and Native organization
48 reports.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Who has the
2 floor on this?

3
4 Go ahead, Zach.

5
6 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, through the Chair.
7 Are there any tribal governments or Native
8 organizations that would like to share reports or
9 updates with the Council?

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MR. STEVENSON: We are now on agenda
14 item 12 and we are asking through the Chair for any
15 reports from tribal or Native governments.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 (Off record comments - no microphones)

22
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.

24
25 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Again we're on number 12 on the agenda and through the
27 Chair we are asking for any reports from tribal
28 governments or Native organization, Native governments.
29 Any reports from tribal or Native organization or
30 governments right now.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MR. COMMACK: Enoch.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Go ahead,

37 Louie.

38
39 MR. COMMACK: Just a question. Did you
40 guys contact the tribal governments for our meetings
41 and the call in numbers.

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. You -- your
46 mic, Louie. It's not -- he was asking if we contacted
47 the tribal governments in the villages for this -- for
48 the contact for here, for this meeting here. And yes,
49 we did.

50

1 If there's none I will go to NANA
2 Regional Corporation under agency reports.

3
4 MR. LINCOLN: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone from NANA?
7 Yeah, go ahead, someone on radioland.

8
9 MR. LINCOLN: Hi, this is John Lincoln,
10 VP of lands for NANA.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, John, You
13 have the floor.

14
15 MR. LINCOLN: Okay. Thank you.

16
17 So I've looked forward to visiting with
18 you all at this meeting for a long time now, but
19 unfortunately I'm fighting a pretty bad cough and
20 decided to call in rather than risk getting some of you
21 sick. I've appreciated the opportunity to listen in
22 and learn from all of you on these proposals. And also
23 I want to thank the agencies for all their research,
24 I've been impressed by the quantity and quality of the
25 data you provided and I'm very thankful that.

26
27 I'm not sure exactly what you had in
28 mind, Mr. Chair, as far as the report from NANA, but I
29 do have some thoughts on our Trespass Program or the
30 Ambler Access Road if that's appropriate.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead. I
33 think people would like to hear what NANA did in the
34 trespass for NANA.

35
36 MR. LINCOLN: Okay. Our Trespass
37 Program just wrapped up our season October 13, we're in
38 the process of completing a pretty in depth season
39 report that we'll present to the Northwest Arctic
40 Borough Assembly, the NANA Board and that we'll provide
41 to all of you at your winter meeting. For those that
42 might not know, the program is a partnership between
43 the Borough and NANA. The Borough helps fund the
44 program while NANA through its subsidiary NANA
45 Management Services manages the day to day operation.
46 We hire resource protection officers and throughout the
47 region ideally in every village this year, we had 12
48 officers, one -- at least one in every village except
49 for Deering and Kobuk. And the only reason for this is
50

1 we didn't receive applications for those villages. We
2 also spent some of our funding this year to enhance our
3 fleet to support more officers in the field for the
4 next year and subsequent years.

5
6 Another goal we had was to deepen
7 partnerships throughout the region and I'd like to
8 thank the National Park Service, Department of Fish and
9 Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Kiana Elders
10 Council, Maniilaq and many of our tribal governments
11 for working with us this year. It's the first year
12 that, you know, I've been involved in the program.
13 Dana Schaeffer and Lance Kramer who I think are present
14 with you there have been involved and it was really
15 good to see the level of cooperation that took place.
16 We're hoping to build on that even more next year.

17
18 And I agree with the point you made
19 yesterday, Attamuk, about utilizing our officers not
20 just for NANA lands, but throughout the region where
21 it's appropriate. We obviously can't enforce laws on
22 public land, but I don't think there's a reason why we
23 couldn't very intentionally in a coordinated fashion
24 act as the eyes and ears for our law enforcement. I
25 know that Justin and Dan have been really good partners
26 with us this year.

27
28 That's really all I have as far as a quick
29 update on trespass.

30
31 As I said we'll have a much more
32 thorough report for you all at your next meeting.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, John.

35
36 MR. LINCOLN: Are there any questions
37 about trespass?

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, John. Any
40 questions from the Board here?

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MR. LINCOLN: If there are none then
45 I'll just move on really quick to talk about the Ambler
46 project that was mentioned earlier today.

47
48 So I listened very attentively to that
49 discussion, it's obviously a major potential project

50

1 with serious implications for our region. NANA does
2 own a significant amount of land on the proposed route
3 and as an organization we share all of the concerns
4 that were expressed today. To date NANA hasn't taken a
5 position on the road, we're not in favor nor opposed to
6 the road at this time. So we have come out in support
7 of the EIS process that BLM has taken on. We're
8 especially concerned about the prospect of it being a
9 public road as Louie and some others spoke to, but so
10 far everyone that I've encountered that's involved in
11 this project is completely opposed to that
12 potentiality. So the -- for example the Governor's
13 Office provided a list of priorities to the Federal
14 government earlier this year and the project was on
15 that list and it immediately alarmed a lot of us
16 because we thought that that was an attempt so seek
17 Federal funding for the project, but we very quickly
18 ensured that they were purely seeking, you know,
19 permitting support and that sort of things and not
20 funding which as Louie pointed out would, you know,
21 cause the road to eventually become public.

22
23 And I just wanted to point out that I
24 -- I didn't catch the lady's name from BLM, but the
25 last information I have about the EIS project is that
26 the public scoping with meetings for our region will
27 takeplace the week of December 4. And I -- if that's --
28 you might want to double check those dates, but I --
29 whenever they place I hope that all of you are able to
30 participate.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, John. I
33 think you guys heard that he want the name from BLM?

34
35 Someone's coming up, John, hang on a
36 minute.

37
38 MS. MILLION: Thank you, Chairman.
39 This is Bonnie Million, field manager for the BLM
40 Anchorage Field Office.

41
42 I didn't have exact dates on the
43 meetings for some of the villages, but I will double
44 check with Lori Thorpe who's currently the project
45 manager for the BLM and I can send an email out to
46 folks with those dates.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. And John is
49 with NANA.

50

1 MS. MILLION: Okay. Great, John. I
2 will definitely reach out to you as well.
3
4 MR. LINCOLN: Okay. Thank you.
5
6 MS. MILLION: You bet.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, John. Any
9 questions for John from the Board members or the BLM?
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, thanks, John.
14
15 MR. LINCOLN: Yeah, thank you. And I'm
16 sorry I couldn't be there in person today, but I hope
17 to be there with you at your next meeting.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll look
20 forward to it.
21
22 I have to make a change -- I mean, I've
23 got a request. Before -- what time you leaving, Louie?
24
25 MR. COMMACK: 2:00 o'clock.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: 2:00 o'clock. So
28 before 2:00 o'clock is there anything we need to vote
29 on before Louie leaves, that way we won't have it.....
30
31 MS. MAAS: Meeting dates.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, no, no. Get the
34 meeting dates.
35
36 MR. McKEE: You have meeting dates and
37 also your annual report topics.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Do we need to vote on
40 those two. Okay.
41
42 MR. COMMACK: Or not. Just get them
43 done together.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. But in case,
46 you know, I think -- the fastest one will be the
47 meeting dates for next meeting.
48
49 MR. McKEE: Mr. Chair, that's the only
50

1 action item. The annual report is just a matter of you
2 coming up with topics, it's not something you have to
3 vote on.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So the one we
6 need to set meeting -- our next meeting date, when and
7 where. I -- for now I'll leave the table open for the
8 -- our next meeting. I think it's most likely happen
9 in March again, right?

10
11 MR. McKEE: I believe so. But we'll
12 have -- that'll come up pretty soon after the agency
13 reports unless it starts getting time sensitive. But
14 we do have somebody else I believe that's on the phone
15 for the next item. So are we done with NANA then
16 or.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Are you -- yeah, John
19 was done.

20
21 MR. McKEE: I think next up we had the
22 Wildlife Conservation Society and that's Trevor Haynes
23 who I believe will be reporting.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead. You
26 have the floor.

27
28 MR. HAYNES: Hi. Thank you very much.
29 Yeah, this is Trevor Haynes calling in from Fairbanks
30 to represent Wildlife Conservation Society. And we're
31 pleased to be able to speak with you guys and just tell
32 you a little bit more about our research and who we are
33 and talk about a project that we are hoping to get
34 rolling through the Subsistence Office.

35
36 Just to give you a little bit of
37 background about WCS, we're a science based NGO. Most
38 of our work is for Arctic Beringia, is either with --
39 in partnership with Native organizations such as the
40 Village of Kotzebue or through governmental
41 organizations such as National Park Service. And we
42 are expanding current projects in the Arctic including
43 projects looking at the full open season -- open water
44 season in lagoons on the Arctic coastline. We've been
45 working with National Park Service since 2011 on
46 lagoons research, we also do research on wolverines,
47 migratory birds and muskox. I'll be focusing mostly on
48 the fisheries research we do on the coastline.

49
50

1 We've been working with NPS, National
2 Park Service, since 2011 in the Kotzebue Sound region
3 looking at lagoons on that coastline including lagoons
4 in Cape Krusenstern and Bering Land Bridge. We've also
5 received additional funds to work on whitefish with --
6 in partnership with Alex Whiting at the Native Village
7 of Kotzebue, expanding the project. We're going to be
8 looking at areas between Kotzebue and Kivalina and have
9 done so here through present so we're building that
10 capacity now. Just from a scientific perspective we --
11 there's just a lot of unknowns and we're really trying
12 to bring in a lot of (indiscernible) with Alaska Native
13 groups because it's been really helpful with our
14 research in terms of helping us direct our science to
15 the issues that are not only, you know, important from
16 an ecological perspective, but also from subsistence
17 and a community perspective as well.

18
19 Working with Alex from the Native
20 Village of Kotzebue, he's highlighted that the lagoons
21 are quite -- (indiscernible) to grow. That's kind of
22 the conception of subsistence fishermen so we're really
23 focused on kind of (indiscernible) apart why those
24 lagoons are important. And we're expanding our
25 research to look at, you know, how fish are traveling
26 from different lagoon systems, also into the river
27 systems which touches on our dolly varden proposal that
28 we have in right now with the Office of Subsistence
29 Management looking to bring in traditional ecological
30 knowledge, combining that with some of the scientific
31 tools we have to paint a better picture about how these
32 dolly varden stocks, how the (indiscernible) stocks are
33 doing in different regions and how much they're moving
34 around.

35
36 One of our field techs that we've had
37 over the last couple of years working in the Kotzebue
38 Sound region has been working on looking at
39 overwintering habitat for whitefish and she's been
40 working closely with Syrus Harris and Bob Schaeffer,
41 two subsistence fishermen out of Kotzebue. We also
42 have been working with Susan Georgette out of the
43 Selawik office to fill in some of the traditional
44 ecological knowledge gaps. We've also been working --
45 so a lot of our research that we're doing in the field
46 we're taking samples of fish tissues back to labs at
47 UAF, University of Alaska, Fairbanks as well as the
48 NOAA office in Juneau and were able to use a lot of
49 their amazing lab facilities to look at things such as
50

1 contaminant and metrics of fish growth and health which
2 is really valuable, you know, for us to be able to
3 understand the fish communities in the lagoon and in
4 the near shore waters around the lagoons.

5
6 During our work in the Cape Krusenstern
7 area we've been working with the Native Village of
8 Kivalina, with local subsistence fishermen there, kind
9 of spending time with them, looking at their
10 subsistence practices and how that ties into the
11 science work that we're doing.

12
13 And finally it's hard to -- we're
14 working hard right now trying to accomplish a vision of
15 Alex Whiting actually who -- with the Native Village of
16 Kotzebue who really wanted to be able to tell the story
17 of lagoons which includes not only the science and the
18 ecology behind the lagoons, but also the community
19 component, the subsistence component as well.

20
21 And just with that I'd just like to
22 thank everyone in the room who's supported our work and
23 we look forward to engaging more in 2018.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

26
27 Do I have any questions for Wildlife
28 Conservation Society from the Council?

29
30 Go ahead, Louie.

31
32 MR. COMMACK: I just want to comment
33 that Inuit Circumpolar Conference has a big agenda item
34 on food security.

35
36 I just want to share that with you.

37
38 MR. HAYNES: Okay. Thank you very
39 much.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Trevor, I'd be happy to follow-up with you offline to
45 get you some contacts at ICC if that's of interest to
46 you.

47
48 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

2
3 MR. HAYNES: Zach, I appreciate that
4 very much.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Are you done?

7
8 MR. HAYNES: Yes. Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. So
11 we need to move on Arctic Beringia Program. And we
12 were told to mute our phones by who?

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Is there
17 anyone from Arctic Beringia Program going to speak,
18 they're next on the agenda.

19
20 MR. McKEE: We just -- that's.....

21
22 MR. CLEVELAND: We just heard it.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We just heard it.
25 All right. I thought that was the Wildlife
26 Conservation Society.

27
28 Now fisheries update.

29
30 I'm just going through my.....

31
32 MR. McKEE: That's just.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:we.....

35
36 MR. McKEE:what we heard. The
37 next thing is Selawik.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Then we're
40 done with all this.

41
42 MS. GEORGETTE: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
43 Chairman, and thank you Council members. My name is
44 Susan Georgette, I'm the refuge manager for Selawik
45 National Wildlife Refuge which is part of the U.S. Fish
46 and Wildlife Service.

47
48 Thank you for the chance to talk and
49 thank you too for all the hard work that you've all
50

1 done the last couple days on the regulatory proposals.
2 I know it's not easier and I really appreciate seeing
3 you all grapple with it.
4

5 I just have a brief report on things
6 we've been up to. I passed this out a little while ago
7 which is on your table there. We have eight staff
8 people right now, six are in Kotzebue, two are based in
9 Selawik Village, Nicole Hanshaw and Frank Berry, Jr.
10 We had Chester Ballot, but he retired in June so we're
11 down one person and we miss having him.
12

13 One of the projects I want to talk
14 about for a minute is the sheefish study we've been
15 doing. And I talked about this before to the Council,
16 it's a multi year project that's looking at two
17 different things. One is how many sheefish spawn in
18 the Selawik River and the other part of it is what the
19 impact of that big mud slide that took place about 10
20 years ago has had on sheefish spawning.
21

22 This year I was lucky enough to be able
23 to go up on that project for four or five days. It's
24 way up the Selawik River, it's about a six hour boat
25 ride from the village. And it's really pretty amazing
26 because there's three village guys that work on it,
27 Frank Berry, Jr., Ingram Clark and Patrick Foster. And
28 then there's a fishery biologist from Fairbanks and his
29 technician and then Bill Carter here is our fisheries
30 biologist at the Refuge. And it's -- I always think
31 this is really this model project because there's these
32 local -- it's so cool to watch them work because
33 they're all so capable and they've done it for several
34 years. And the Selawik guys of course know the river,
35 they know where to fish, they're super efficient,
36 they're hard working, they're comfortable out there,
37 you don't have to -- I mean, everyone knows their role
38 and it's really cool to watch them work. And so what
39 they're doing during the time I was there is that
40 they're catching 200 male sheefish to get their ear
41 bones out of their heads which is how they tell how old
42 the fish are. And then they cut and partially dry the
43 fish and take them back to the village to hand out to
44 people. And the village appreciates the food. And
45 it's just -- I don't know, it's just so cool to watch
46 them all work. And I think it's just a model of a
47 project that engages local residents along with
48 biologists doing this work.
49
50

1 And I think -- well, Bill can talk for
2 just a minute about how long it's been going on, but
3 one part of the project is that they count how many
4 sheefish are going down river after they spawn. And
5 you probably know this, but for anyone who doesn't
6 there's two sheefish spawning areas in our region, one
7 is on the upper Kobuk, up above Kobuk Village and one
8 is on the Selawik area in this area I was talking
9 about, this is about six hours above Selawik Village.
10 And sheefish spawn really suddenly and go down river
11 really quickly. So they hang out and they hang out and
12 they hang out and then whenever the critical time
13 comes, the water's the right temperature, they spawn
14 and turn around and go down river really quickly. And
15 there was one year in 2013 when freeze-up was late
16 enough that the sonar project was able to count the
17 whole run because sometimes they get iced out because
18 they'll run under the ice. And this year because we
19 had a late freeze-up they were able to count them all
20 too. And in Selawik River which is not a very big
21 river if you've ever been up there, I mean, you can
22 wade across the riffles in hip boots when the water's
23 not high. There's -- they've mostly counted 16,000 to
24 30,000 spawning fish in the Selawik River. So that's a
25 lot of fish in a little river. And it's a pretty
26 amazing resource we have as you all know and people in
27 our region really appreciate the sheefish and it was
28 really interesting to see it.

29
30 So I was going to have Bill just talk
31 for a couple minutes about the part of the project that
32 addresses the thaw slump. So Bill gets to be up there
33 for about six weeks at a time most years. So not
34 everyone might think that was fun, but it's pretty cool
35 to be on the upper Selawik and watch it turn from fall
36 into freeze-up.

37
38 MR. CARTER: So the part of the project
39 that -- so I'm Bill Carter, the fish biologist at the
40 Selawik Refuge. The part of the project that deals
41 directly with the thaw slump has to do with the age
42 that the fish return to start spawning. In this area
43 sheefish don't start returning to spawn until they're
44 10 years old, in the Yukon it's about five to seven.
45 And those are just the males, the females take a little
46 bit longer to mature. So because the slump originally
47 occurred in 2004 it's taken us -- it -- we had to wait
48 several years to start this project so the project
49 started in 2011 and OSM has funded this project through
50

1 next year, 2018, when a final report is due.

2
3 So we also have -- we are also
4 collecting otoliths from the chum test fishery in the
5 Kobuk so we can compare the two ages or the two
6 populations against each other because there wasn't the
7 slump -- the mud slide in the Kobuk. So that let's us
8 look at the difference between spawning area affect and
9 a rearing area affect because other studies have shown
10 that these fish all go out into Selawik Lake, Kobuk
11 Lake and Kotzebue Sound to rear and then they, you
12 know, at 10 they start moving back. So we found
13 currently that there is a minor difference between the
14 two populations with fewer young fish coming into the
15 population in the Selawik. But we need to have two
16 more years of data that'll be coming in that we can
17 make some definitive -- some more definitive -- we'll
18 have more definitive results.

19
20 The other thing is that these are
21 really long lived fish, we have fish that -- the oldest
22 fish that we've aged so far is 41 years old. So they
23 go back to spawn many, many times. So this minor slump
24 may be a setback for the -- but in the long term their
25 life history may be able to overcome this mud slide as
26 long as they don't keep -- we don't continue to have
27 these mud slides in the region.

28
29 MS. GEORGETTE: So anyways we really
30 appreciate OSM funding that project and that's a multi
31 year project.

32
33 I'm not going to go over all these
34 things in this list. I want to mention that we and
35 when I saw we this time, I mean, Park Service, Fish and
36 Game and Fish and Wildlife Service I think has done a --
37 we've worked hard at trying to get out news to the
38 public about the hunting regulations because I know
39 it's hard for people to learn all these changes going
40 on with permits and seasons and everything. And we
41 have an active Facebook page where we post, you know,
42 what -- like bulls are closing now or remember to get
43 your permit or something. And, you know, there's
44 caribou trails that Fish and Game does. And we worked
45 with our colleagues in the other agencies to have
46 hunter meetings in a lot of villages. And Selawik, I
47 think we had 60 people show up to our hunter meeting to
48 talk about caribou regs, in Noorvik we probably had 45
49 or 50 people. And so I do want to assure that we do

50

1 take seriously how you get people to know and it's hard
2 to let everyone know without kind of knocking on
3 everyone's door. But we really do work at it and I
4 think we've been working well with the Department of
5 Fish and Game and the Park Service that we all join
6 together and try to address this need in our region.
7 And we're always open to new ideas too, I mean, we try
8 and use the radio and all of that. But if anyone has
9 ideas we're happy to try to improve how we let hunters
10 know what the regulations are.

11
12 We're also cooperating with -- and the
13 Park Service maybe is going to talk about this, but
14 we've heard about beavers for years and the Park and
15 there's a UAF scientist that has put in an application
16 to the Park Service for funding on looking at the
17 impact of beavers in our region. And we're working --
18 Bill's working with them some too. So I want you to
19 know that we have heard the concerns about that.

20
21 I don't have any updated information
22 from this fall yet for our guides and transporters. We
23 have four transporters that have permits for the Refuge
24 and we have one guide, but as you know the State closed
25 the nonresident moose hunting years and most of the
26 hunters that go on Selawik Refuge go for moose and a
27 lot of them are non-Alaskans. And so I would guess
28 that there's probably less use of the Refuge this fall
29 than previous years, but I don't know that. I can tell
30 you in the spring.

31
32 And then we had our culture camp again,
33 I think it was the 15th year that we did that.

34
35 There's pictures in here from that.

36
37 We had another Youth Conservation Corps
38 Program where we hired four Selawik teenagers that
39 worked for us for three weeks on different kinds of
40 cleanup and maintenance projects. And we -- we're
41 working on a project this winter with the University of
42 Alaska, Fairbanks Oral History Program to interview
43 some of the elders in Selawik and perhaps Noorvik and
44 Kotzebue on what -- I mean, on land use and resources
45 in the mid 20th century. So that would be the 1940s
46 and 1950s. And as you know there's a lot of people
47 that know a lot about it and we thought that it would
48 be a great opportunity to record kind of their
49 knowledge of conditions at that time and some of the
50

1 muskrat hunting and trapping that --really featured in
2 Selawik in the 1930s and '40s and '50s and take
3 advantage of elders that are willing to help us with
4 that. So we look forward to working on that this
5 winter.

6
7 So my door's always open, I'm always
8 happy to talk with anybody if they have questions or
9 concerns.

10
11 And that's all we have.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any
16 questions from the Board here?

17
18 Go ahead, Vern.

19
20 MR. CLEVELAND: Did you say you were
21 going to put bounty on beavers?

22
23 MS. GEORGETTE: I won't say that, Vern.

24
25 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you. Because
26 there's a lot of beavers in that river and they're
27 clogging up the -- damming up the small creeks for fish
28 to -- and it's going -- and it's getting worse -- bad,
29 getting real bad on beavers.

30
31 MS. GEORGETTE: Yeah, I mean, we see
32 that ourselves and we've heard that a lot and I think
33 Park Service maybe would talkmore about it, but it's --
34 you know, they're looking at both kind of physical
35 impacts of beavers and the sort of social impacts of,
36 you know, not being able to get your boat to where you
37 used to go or set your net and water quality and all
38 those things.

39
40 So I think it's really timely and I
41 think it would be a great project if it gets funded.

42
43 Thanks.

44
45 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Okay. That
48 you two. I think next is the ADF&G.

49
50

1 Go ahead, Zach.

2
3 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 That's correct. Next on the agenda is the report from
5 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And I've been
6 in communication with them via email and understand
7 that both Mark Burch, special projects coordinator with
8 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
9 Wildlife Conservation in Palmer, may be on the line
10 and/or Commissioner Joe Klein out of Juneau and
11 possibly also Mr. Lem Butler. Lem is the assistant --
12 Division of Wildlife Conservation assistant director.
13 So I'm asking that ADF&G if they're on the line now
14 please identify themselves.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Is there
19 anyone online from ADF&G?

20
21 Go ahead, you have the floor.

22
23 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 This is -- for the record this is Alex Hansen,
25 Department of Fish and Game, caribou biologist here in
26 Kotzebue. And I'll be speaking mainly to the Western
27 Arctic caribou herd and what we've been working on
28 there.

29
30 As you may be aware, you know, our last
31 count for 2016 enumerated the caribou herd at 201,000
32 animals. We have sensed conducted a new census, this
33 was in -- this year, the summer of 2017 and I will
34 report that we didn't have optimal weather conditions,
35 aggregations were a little bit less than desired and we
36 went ahead and shot that. We're preparing to count
37 those photos beginning this week, in fact, we've
38 probably got people working on that right now. And we
39 are working to get a final number just as soon as we can.

40
41 One exciting thing about the photo
42 census this year is we switched to a digital camera
43 format which is a little bit resolution under less
44 optimal light conditions and the ability to zoom in on
45 those photos. So we expect to hopefully have the
46 ability to get a little more accurate data from that
47 process.

48
49 Other than the census there are, you
50

1 know, several other things that we look at to judge the
2 manage or the health of the herd including adult
3 survival. Currently our adult female survival is quite
4 high, 2015 through '16 was about 90 percent survival
5 which is remarkable. And it indicates that hopefully
6 this decline is tapering off, we're turning around.

7
8 Also additional support is our yearling
9 recruitment. We've had some of the highest yearling
10 recruitment surveys in these last three years, two,
11 three years, to indicate that we have more young
12 individuals joining the herd and the population. Those
13 number respectively number 23 to 100 in 2016 and for
14 2017, 22 short yearlings or calves coming into the
15 population for 100 adults.

16
17 Our calf survival is also hope. We've
18 been working on calf survival studies and we've been
19 deploying collars in 2015 and 2016 and Onion Portage
20 and those survival rates are very high in the mid to
21 high 80s.

22
23 Calf production is another metric that
24 we monitor. We look at how many calves hit the ground
25 on the calving ground and for the last two years that
26 has been about 85 calves to 100 cows which is very high
27 and very remarkable.

28
29 Also our body conditions are good.
30 This is something that we look at Onion Portage and we
31 also receive feedback from hunters afield.

32
33 We just completed our fall composition
34 and this gives us an idea or a good number of what the
35 bull to cow ratios are, what the calf to cow ratios
36 are. And it is part of the plan that we maintain bull
37 to cow ratios above 40 to 100, bulls to 100 cows. And
38 this year that's come up a little bit.

39
40 So also of note we did notice a lot of
41 younger bulls in the population this year when we did
42 our fall compositions, a lot of one year old and two
43 year old bulls which is, you know, consistent with what
44 we're seeing with calf survival.

45
46 I might also mention that our, you
47 know, calf to cow ratio last year was 54 to 100 and
48 this year it was 55 to 100. So that's pretty stable,
49 actually coming up a little bit. We're very excited
50

1 about that.

2
3 And this year, 2017, we launched a calf
4 survival study with the Western Arctic herd. And this
5 was to study mortality on calves from date of birth to
6 one year of life. And what we did is we deployed
7 collars on 78 calves on the calving ground and we were
8 there on site to monitor mortality and we were able to
9 determine what those causes of mortality were. And I
10 can give you a little preliminary data. Within that
11 first week, week and a half that spent up there we lost
12 18 calves and 11 of those calves were lost to brown
13 bear, four were lost to golden eagles, two were
14 abandoned and one was drowned. So we continue to
15 monitor those as they move on to the next phase of
16 their life as they move down to migration. And moving
17 forward I found an additional eight mortalities and two
18 of those were attributed to brown bear, one to an
19 eagle, one to a wolf and I still have a few collars
20 that I have not been able to pick up and a couple
21 unknowns there. So we continue to work on that
22 project. And it's in the plan to run at least one more
23 year of that study.

24
25 And as many of you mentioned, a number
26 of individuals especially along the Kobuk River were
27 unable to catch caribou this year. We kind of suffered
28 the same fate at our Onion Portage collaring events.
29 We were only able to catch four cows and three calves,
30 typically we would handle, you know, between 60 to 70
31 animals. So because of lack of caribou we called it a
32 trip and went home a little bit early.

33
34 But with that in mind we made that
35 decision based on the fact that we still do have enough
36 collars deployed on adult animals to accomplish the
37 surveys that we need to. We feel like we still have
38 plenty of collars out there and, you know, not catching
39 those caribou this year isn't going to be detrimental
40 to our efforts. We will however make a redoubled
41 effort next year to make sure we get out those collars.

42
43 And I might mention that, you know, I
44 don't work direct -- as much as with the other game
45 species, but we've been cooperating on projects and
46 surveys with the Park Service, including the bear
47 survey, dall sheep survey and the moose surveys. And I
48 believe Hillary will speak more to that coming up.

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

4
5 Go ahead, Louie.

6
7 MR. COMMACK: Thank you. I know
8 there's been just grimmich between the Feds and the
9 State on the river. I know there's been lots of fights
10 and who has total jurisdiction as of now on the river?

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 MR. HANSEN:then we go to the
17 kill site and then we can look at the carcass and make
18 a determination as to cause of death. That's how that
19 works. Thank you for the question, very good question.

20
21 MR. MITCHELL: Yes, and how did you
22 find out what animal did this?

23
24 MR. HANSEN: So based on past research,
25 you know, we have some characteristic -- different
26 animals leave characteristic signs of the kill site.
27 For instance a grizzly bear would leave a small bear,
28 typically, you know, you would find just a little bit,
29 some small bones, they chew up most of the bones, a
30 little bit of mandible would be left, they kind of keep
31 it in a contained, tight area. And occasionally
32 there's scat or other sign around from the offending
33 animal.

34
35 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
38 else have a question?

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, thanks.

43
44 MR. HANSEN: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Now where we at,
47 Zach, we're.....

48
49 Go ahead.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Through the Chair. Are there any additional items that
3 are to be shared with the Council from the Alaska
4 Department of Fish and Game?

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, yeah, are there
7 anyone on radioland from ADF&G?

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, BLM, you have
12 the floor.

13
14 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair, members of the
15 Board, I'm Bruce Seppi with BLM Anchorage Field Office.
16 We've had several personnel changes that are ongoing
17 and have occurred already. You've met Bonnie Million,
18 she's our new field manager up from Oregon, but she's
19 worked in the State before so she's kind of hit the
20 ground running and is getting her head around
21 subsistence and the RAC meetings.

22
23 We also have Walker Gussy, he's here in
24 the meeting today, he's our pilot ranger and he'll be
25 coordinating with a State Wildlife trooper and other
26 law enforcement here so hopefully we have law
27 enforcement on the ground during migration next year.
28 He's also a pilot so he's going to be here with an
29 aircraft and hopefully we'll have a little more
30 coordinated law enforcement during migration.

31
32 We also are in the process of filling
33 our Anchorage district manager position. Mark Spencer,
34 our current manager, will be retiring at the end of the
35 month and they're fully intending to fill that position
36 as quickly as possible, but in the interim our
37 associate district manager, Callie Webber, will be
38 acting in that position.

39
40 And finally also our State director,
41 Bud Cribbley, has accepted a position with the Fish and
42 Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C. so we currently
43 have an acting State director, her name is Karen
44 Mouritsen. That's only an acting position and we don't
45 absolutely know when that position will be filled
46 permanently, but possibly with other acting people, but
47 for right now Karen is in that position.

48
49 Also we are working on a land use plan,
50

1 in fact several land use plans, but the one -- the
2 major land use plan we're working on Bering Sea Western
3 Interior and I can hand out this flyer to each of you
4 when we're done here, but it's south side of this
5 region, but it's just to the south and adjacent to unit
6 23, I've discussed it with you before and the issues
7 don't deal with caribou in this unit or wildlife or
8 land use issues in this unit, but they -- they're
9 adjacent and so we're in the process of just finishing
10 the alternatives review for that and we're working on
11 the draft RMP which will be out in early 2019. So that
12 will be out and then out for public review and you'll
13 be updated on that as it comes along.

14
15 We also have an update on the Squirrel
16 River Land Use Plan. I'll defer to Bonnie to that now
17 and also about Ambler Road.

18
19 MS. MILLION: Sure. So Ambler Road, I
20 just reached out to Lori Thorpe -- oh.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Mic, please.

23
24 MS. MILLION: Oh. Good call. Thank
25 you so much. Apologies. This is Bonnie Million, field
26 manager for the Anchorage Field Office. Ambler Road, I
27 reached out to Lori Thorpe who is the current project
28 lead for that project. She's going to be sending me a
29 list. She does have tentative dates for the public
30 scoping meetings in the different villages so I will
31 have that available here shortly. And we sort of
32 talked about Ambler Road, that project initially and I
33 wasn't sure if there were any follow-up questions or if
34 there was anything else that you would like me to
35 discuss about that project because I understand that
36 it's definitely a big deal.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, I think we heard
39 it earlier.

40
41 MS. MILLION: Okay. Great. Well, I
42 will.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Unless Louie has a
45 question. He's.....

46
47 MR. COMMACK: Sure. How much BLM land
48 is between Ambler and Fairbanks?

49
50

1 MS. MILLION: Between Ambler and
2 Fairbanks, I do not know those numbers off the top of
3 my head, but I will be able to find that very quickly.
4

5 MR. SEPPI: I've got a number here for
6 you just from a email from Lori, that the entire road
7 length is 211 miles, 60 percent of that is on State
8 land and the rest is National Park Service and BLM and
9 Native corporation land. So that's -- if you look at
10 the map of it that I've seen there's just a small
11 portion, so Federally I think we're the least amount of
12 Federal land, but Park Service and BLM are the Federal
13 lands that it's crossing.
14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Go
16 ahead.
17

18 MS. MILLION: So the next project that
19 I would like to give the Council a heads up on is
20 probably an area that you are all much more familiar
21 with than me and that is the Squirrel River drainage
22 area. The Bureau of Land Management has a special
23 recreation management area designation on the BLM lands
24 specifically around that area. And our Central Yukon
25 Field Office kicked off a special recreation management
26 area plan back in -- it would have been like 2011 where
27 they reached out and they did some public meetings and
28 they held what's called a scoping process just to get
29 ideas of conflicts and concerns in the area.
30 Unfortunately due to some land shift, boundary shifts
31 at that time the project did not -- sort of stalled out
32 at that time. And our field office is picking that up
33 again. Our plan is to send out letters to interested
34 public, to tribes, to Native Alaskan organizations, to
35 our sister agencies as well, for -- to re-initiate that
36 scoping process, to start having some meetings with
37 local communities. And we're hoping to have the
38 meetings in February, maybe early March, and to come
39 out and to have face to face meetings with communities
40 to talk to folks and to hear what the conflicts are in
41 the area and how we can best manage the recreational
42 uses that are occurring on BLM lands Squirrel River
43 Special Recreation Management Area. So I wanted to
44 give this Council an early alert that this will be
45 coming.
46

47 Tom Sparks who is our associate field
48 manager based out of our Nome office will be the
49 project lead on that so you can get in touch with him
50

1 or at anytime you can always reach out to me and I'd be
2 more than happy to aid in -- answer any questions or
3 help explain the process that we'll be going through
4 for that.

5
6 MR. HANSEN: One final thing I have is
7 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meeting
8 is going to happen December 12 through 14 in Anchorage.
9 That contract has just been awarded for the person --
10 for the organization helping us plan the logistics and
11 getting everybody to that meeting. So we don't
12 actually have a venue right now, but it is in
13 Anchorage. We're hoping for the Marriott, but that
14 hasn't been confirmed yet.

15
16 Fish and Wildlife, Park Service and BLM
17 all equally funded that and I guess some discussion has
18 to be in the future about how it'll be funded in the
19 future, but I know it's a very important meeting and
20 it's on for this year, it's funded for this year and
21 the contract has been let. So anybody who is on that
22 board or going to that meeting can expect a call from--
23 for a logistics coordination for that. And as soon as
24 we get more information about a venue and that sort of
25 thing that will be out. On their website if you just
26 look up Western Caribou Herd Working Group they've got
27 a website that is up and running. Jan Caulfield is the
28 facilitator for Fish and Game who is helping with that
29 and we're working and coordinating with her. So she's
30 also a good contact. But that's coming together
31 quickly here as the meeting's coming up fast.

32
33 And that's all I have.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
36 Any questions -- oh, you have more.

37
38 MS. MILLION: Well, just one quick go
39 back. Lori just sent me the meeting dates for the
40 Ambler community. I'm not sure what would be easier, I
41 can either read them out loud and put them on the
42 record or I can send an email of the dates to the
43 Council.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Read them on out,
46 we're here.

47
48 MS. MILLION: Okay. Let's do it.

1 Monday, November 13th, at the Community
2 Hall of Allakaket, Alaska at 3:00 p.m.

3
4 Tuesday, November 14th, the Community
5 Center at Anaktuvuk Pass, 4:00 p.m.

6
7 Wednesday, November 15th, the tribal
8 office building at Alatna, Alaska, 10:00 a.m.

9
10 Thursday, November 16th, wow, that's a
11 very busy week. Thursday, November 16th at the
12 Wedgewood Resort in Fairbanks at 4:00 p.m.

13
14 Friday, November 17th at the Community
15 Center in Wiseman at 3:00 p.m.

16
17 And then they're going to take a break
18 over the weekend.

19
20 And then on Monday, November 20th, it's
21 at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage at 6:00 p.m.

22
23 And then we have a longer break and
24 then on down into December.

25
26 Monday, December 4th at the Kobuk
27 School in Kobuk at 4:00 p.m.

28
29 Tuesday, December 5th at the Ambler
30 School in Ambler at 4:00 p.m.

31
32 Wednesday, December 6th at the Borough
33 Assembly Chambers in Kotzebue, 4:00 p.m.

34
35 Thursday, December 7th at the Shungnak
36 School in Shungnak, Alaska at 4:00 p.m.

37
38 And then Tuesday, December 12 at the
39 Evansville Community Center in Evansville at 5:30 p.m.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
42 Zach.

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Through the Chair. I'm wondering, Bonnie or Bruce, did
46 you send us that -- send me that information at OSM?

47
48 MS. MILLION: Absolutely.

1 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you much.

2
3 MS. MILLION: Uh-huh.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank
6 you. Are you two done -- go ahead, Vern.

7
8 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes, did -- with the
9 climate change did the BLM put out their fire equipment
10 early this year or did they readjust with the climate
11 change in case of a fire in our area?

12
13 MS. MILLION: For fire season, our fire
14 season this year, I think we were fully staffed, a
15 little later in the season I think we started sending
16 some resources down south when stuff was blowing up
17 down in Idaho and I think we sent some folks down to
18 Oregon as well. But I don't believe we shifted the
19 schedule around this year as far as fire staffing for a
20 contingency on the ground.

21
22 MR. CLEVELAND: We did have a fire last
23 year and I reported it, it was right by Noorvik
24 and.....

25
26 MS. MILLION: Uh-huh.

27
28 MR. CLEVELAND:all the fire
29 equipment was down in California.....

30
31 MS. MILLION: Yeah.

32
33 MR. CLEVELAND:or someplace.

34
35 MS. MILLION: Right.

36
37 MR. CLEVELAND: So did they do any
38 research or anything just in case of the -- our climate
39 change and, you know, to respond quickly.....

40
41 MS. MILLION: Uh-huh.

42
43 MR. CLEVELAND:if it's near a
44 village or some place?

45
46 MS. MILLION: Uh-huh. The -- I know
47 the Alaska Fire Service has some really great research
48 and modeling going on right now in conjunction I think
49 with UAF and some joint fire science projects that have
50

1 been funded on a national level. They've been working
2 with NASA modeling and some other long term climate
3 data sets. And they're hoping to utilize that in the
4 future to better position resources and better prepare
5 for seasons into the future.

6
7 MR. CLEVELAND: One more. Do you guys
8 allow wheelers, four-wheelers, on BLM lands in Squirrel
9 River?

10
11 MS. MILLION: That's a good question.
12 I can pull up the RMP right now and find out.

13
14 Do you know?

15
16 MR. SEPPI: In some areas and actually
17 some of the guides in that area use four-wheelers.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Please turn your mic
20 on, please.

21
22 MR. SEPPI: Some of the guides in that
23 area use four-wheelers, but it's limited to existing
24 trails. So if they wanted to make new trails or go off
25 across land with four-wheelers, no. But I would like
26 to refer back to the land use plan to confirm that.

27
28 MS. MILLION: Uh-huh.

29
30 MR. CLEVELAND: So how do you manage
31 this area. If there's four-wheelers that are on your
32 land and they're legally there what do you do?

33
34 MS. MILLION: So that's a really,
35 really great question. And it has been -- we have been
36 behind the eight ball on that I'll say for the last
37 several years because the Anchorage Field Office staff
38 has been without any law enforcement. We've been
39 without law enforcement for the past six years I think.
40 So that's a really great -- in addition to Walker
41 Gussey who's our pilot ranger we also were able to hire
42 an additional road ranger, but he will be available to
43 support Walker when it comes to field operations. And
44 the intent would be when we have -- especially in the
45 Squirrel River area and that's one of the things that
46 we would like to look into when we're talking to folks
47 in communities about some of the conflicts that are
48 going on in that area, if there are OHB conflicts
49 that's something that we can look at in our span of
50

1 alternatives in the document on possibly eliminating
2 some transportation and whatnot. And when that
3 document's in place and we have a decision that's off
4 of it, that'll give Walker and our law enforcement
5 rangers some better documentation to move forward with
6 having discussions with folks who have OHBs out there
7 and are utilizing them illegally.

8
9 MR. SEPPI: Thank you, sir.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.

12
13 MR. CLEVELAND: (In Native)

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Kramer, you had a
16 question.

17
18 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

19
20 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I didn't hear the
21 rest of the -- before this only guides, transporters,
22 what it was costing us and how many animals were
23 crossing in that area, recreation area?

24
25 MR. SEPPI: We don't have -- they're
26 required to report back by January 1st, we don't have
27 that reporting back this time. We have six right now
28 permitted, we have six guides and four transporters.
29 Only two of those guides operated in Squirrel River and
30 the Squirrel River's close to caribou for non-qualified
31 subsistence users. And none of those transporters
32 operated this year. So it's far reduced, the amount of
33 activity going in there because of the closure.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you and
36 Vern.

37
38 From the Council, you need -- you can
39 look at anything on fire management and it's kind of
40 changed.

41
42 MS. MILLION: Okay.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm supposed to ask
45 Council members.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

50

1 MS. MILLION: Uh-huh.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anything else?
4
5 MR. SEPPI: Any questions?
6
7 MS. MILLION: No. No, I think
8 it's.....
9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not we need to
11 move on. So OSM is next.
12
13 Chris McKee. Go ahead. You have the
14 floor.
15
16 MR. McKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
17 is Chris McKee, Wildlife Division chief at OSM. I
18 don't have a lot to say, I just have a quick staffing
19 update.
20
21 We had a couple of retirements in the
22 office, Don Rivard, one of our senior fish biologists
23 retired.
24
25 And then Palma Ingles, one of our
26 anthropologists, also retired.
27
28 Jennifer Hardin who was our
29 Anthropology Division chief switched over to another
30 position, she is now our policy coordinator.
31
32 And Tom Doolittle came up from the
33 Lower 48 to assume the deputy assistant regional
34 director position, but Tom has worked in Alaska for
35 many years, he was the assistant refuge manager at
36 Yukon Delta for many, many years so he has a lot of
37 Alaska experience.
38
39 And that's kind of the gist of the
40 staffing updates.
41
42 I will say that in terms of hiring it's
43 a pretty long process right now. We have to get
44 clearance from -- all the way from D.C. to hire a lot
45 of these senior level positions and it's a very long
46 and drawn out process to get that approval. We're
47 hoping that that hiring process will lighten up
48 somewhat, but as of now it'll probably take several
49 months to get people -- those positions filled so we
50

1 have several people acting in those positions off and
2 on. So I anticipate it will be several months, six
3 months or more, until we get actual people into those
4 positions.

5
6 So that's pretty much all I had.

7
8 If you have any questions I can try to
9 answer them.

10
11 Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any
14 questions from the Board.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. If not I
19 think we need to go back to our agenda and we need to
20 go 11C, FY 2017 DFO.

21
22 Go ahead, Zach.

23
24 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 We wanted to save this for the end and this was
26 identifying issues for the FY fiscal year 2017 annual
27 report. And briefly the purpose of the annual report
28 is to document any concerns or issues that were really
29 important to the Council that then get shared with the
30 Federal Subsistence Board and the agencies that work
31 with the Office of Subsistence Management. So this is
32 an opportunity for the Council to identify issues that
33 they would like to have in their annual report. And we
34 will revisit this item again in our February meeting,
35 our winter meeting, but this is the opportunity for the
36 Council to identify issues for the annual report.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
41 from the Council have concerns that they need to add
42 onto the annual report?

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I guess not, Zach,
47 nobody from the Council here. Is there something in
48 there you wanted to talk about on the -- for the DFO?

49
50

1 Zach.

2
3 MR. STEVENSON: Again this is --
4 through the Chair. This is the opportunity for the
5 Council to communicate with the Federal Board about
6 issues that are of importance to this Council, to
7 document those and get a response from the Federal
8 Board.

9
10 If there's any issues that are of
11 interest to this Council now is the time to document
12 that for inclusion in the annual report.

13
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Maybe I'll
17 start it. I'm going to ask the Park Service and the
18 agencies how much -- you need to do a study to see how
19 much impact transporters and outfitters are having on
20 our subsistence life. We need to do a study because we
21 are being affected from transporters and outfitters.
22 This need to be done that way we won't -- we won't have
23 so much conflict. And if they see something that might
24 help us. Because this is the Parklands, this is our
25 lands and we need to worry of the people, the Natives
26 that are here, not only the others too that live off --
27 live off our land. I would like to see that eventually
28 sometime in the future. To me I always felt it's
29 important because we are being heavily impacted by the
30 transporters and outfitters coming and diverting our
31 caribou and our way of life. The State do not worry
32 about it because they worried about other stuff, but
33 we, the people from Northwest Alaska including Barrow
34 and Nome, outlying village and Fairbanks, we live off
35 the land and we need to find out how much it's being
36 impacted.

37
38 I don't know what can be done, but I'm
39 going to request it, if it could be done, please, look
40 into it.

41
42 Anyone else from the Council.

43
44 Louie, we're on -- explain to him, go
45 ahead, Zach, that I need to -- concerns from the
46 Council on the DFO. We're on 11C. I just asked the
47 Park Service or whatever and I know it's to do a study
48 on impacts from the transporters and outfitters.

49
50

1 Make it sweet and short.

2
3 MR. STEVENSON: Again I'm asking the
4 question through the Chair.

5
6 Are there any additional items that the
7 Council would like to see submitted in the annual
8 report for response by the Federal Subsistence Board of
9 interest to this Council.

10
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone --
14 go ahead, Vern.

15
16 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, what about these
17 folks in Kiana every year with net and picking up
18 salmon. Do they report, I know that Fish and Game or
19 someone's on the river with a net every year in Kiana
20 and getting a whole bunch of salmon and doing some kind
21 of research. Is there any kind of report on that?

22
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Is that on
24 escapement?

25
26 MR. CARTER: Yeah, this is Bill Carter
27 with the Selawik Refuge. Yeah, that's commercial
28 escapement for chum salmon. So that's a ADF&G project.
29 So we get our sheefish otoliths from that same project
30 also to compare the Kobuk population to the Selawik
31 population of sheefish. But, yeah, that's run by
32 ComFish, ADF&G out of Nome.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

35
36 MR. CLEVELAND: So anybody reported on
37 that or.....

38
39 MR. CARTER: Yeah, that report would
40 come from ComFish, ADF&G. I'm not sure where you -- I
41 mean, you'd probably find it on their website.

42
43 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
46 Zach.

47
48 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 To clarify, Member Cleveland, are you requesting
50

1 inclusion of a request from the Board for an update on
2 those fishery studies in Kiana, is that what you're
3 requesting?

4
5 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes, I would like that.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,
10 Louie.

11
12 MR. COMMACK: Is this a public comment
13 -- I mean, time for comment or what is this?

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: This is -- yeah,
16 number 11C, concerns from us that we would like to put
17 on the.....

18
19 MR. COMMACK: Okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:on the annual
22 report.

23
24 MR. COMMACK: Okay. Again my concerns
25 are the road, the impact it might have on our people
26 regarding all the villages on the Kobuk River and
27 Kotzebue. The land surrounding that area, is there
28 foreign companies owning land in that area say behind
29 Kobuk, Shungnak and Ambler, is there foreign companies
30 that own that land. There's also many other questions
31 that we're starting to ask regarding that road. The
32 last two years we had a difficult time getting caribou.
33 People have to go to Buckland in the middle of the
34 winter to catch caribou. Again this fall there's
35 hardly anything. We're in a hardship, people are
36 depending on fish and berries, gathering from the land.
37 The question I asked earlier and was not answered was
38 who has total jurisdiction on the water, the river, is
39 it the Feds or the State. What's the outcome of the
40 legal fight that's been going on between the State and
41 the Feds on the gravel bars. Again this will impact
42 our people.

43
44 So is there anybody that could answer
45 my question?

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I don't know we'd
48 have to look -- we'll have to.....

49
50

1 Go ahead, Maija. I didn't -- maybe you
2 could answer it then.

3
4 MS. LUKIN: Thank you. I was going to
5 give this in our report for Park Service, but so I have
6 a couple of talking points for you, Louie.

7
8 The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
9 issued a decision on October 2nd that upheld the lower
10 court ruling which found the NPS regulations apply on
11 waters subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. within
12 Alaska Park units. And the decision does not change
13 anything regarding NPS jurisdiction on navigable waters
14 in Alaska. It upholds the application of existing NPS
15 regulations for navigable waters in Alaska which is
16 consistent with NPS interpretation and management
17 practices, but I know I heard you talk about the gravel
18 bars and it is from the water to the high water mark is
19 State lands. And so those are gravel bars that is
20 State jurisdiction, but from the water to the water on
21 the other side is NPS within Kobuk Valley National Park
22 and the Preserve and the Monument.

23
24 MR. COMMACK: What about the waters
25 that run through State land?

26
27 MS. LUKIN: The waters that -- as far
28 as I know the waters that run through State land are
29 State jurisdiction.

30
31 MR. HANSEN: Yes, that's correct.

32
33 MS. LUKIN: They say yes.

34
35 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Zach.

38
39 MR. STEVENSON: And I want to
40 acknowledge that we had skipped over both Western
41 Arctic and Gates. Our apologies, Maija, we'll
42 certainly come back to that in just a moment.

43
44 I also wanted to respond briefly to a
45 question from Member Cleveland. I was just in a
46 document from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
47 it's entitled 2017 Kotzebue Sound Management Plan. And
48 they describe briefly the objectives of their work
49 which are -- using their own information state that in
50

1 season escapement based management will consist of one
2 test fish project in the Kobuk River, possible limited
3 test fishing in the Noatak and reports from subsistence
4 fishermen. The test fishing project on the Kobuk River
5 in the vicinity of Kiana will provide an in season
6 index of chum salmon passage and there's significant
7 information and figures to accompany that. I just
8 wanted to briefly give you an overview of the document.

9
10 And I'll send it out to the Council
11 when I return to Anchorage.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Zach.

16
17 MR. STEVENSON: Any other items for the
18 annual report?

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any others on the
21 annual report that need to be -- the Council would like
22 to add?

23
24 Kramer.

25
26 MR. KRAMER: I know that, you know,
27 there in this fall hunting season there was a lot of
28 complaints regarding low flying aircraft and, you know,
29 who do they report to and, you know, who does the law
30 enforcement for FAA and so on, you know, I mean, those
31 kind of answers, those kind of questions need to be
32 answered, but from, you know, the people -- a lot of
33 people in Noatak who had to deal with these airplanes
34 flying low and with -- and numbers taped, you know,
35 taped over and covered. I think at our next Federal
36 subsistence meeting, our winter meeting, I highly
37 suggest we have an FAA representative there, highly
38 suggest it. You know, it's a necessary thing, some of
39 these people are up there and, you know, there's low
40 flying aircraft. I mean, I understand if they have the
41 intent to come in to a specific area, but, you know,
42 those specific areas should be noted within the
43 communities of that conflicted area. And, you know, my
44 hat's off to the people who put all those aircraft on
45 Facebook, man, that was awesome, people knew what they
46 looked like and knew who they were. And that was a
47 very good thing and that very -- that helped out our
48 communities very well.

49
50

1 And that's all I have for right now.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Okay.
4 Are we done with -- are we done with the annual report,
5 Zach, are you happy now?
6

7 MR. STEVENSON: I'm good. I'm good.
8 That takes us to.....
9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We're getting
11 tired, I'm going to make everybody smile. I think
12 we're going to need to go back to what's it, Arctic
13 National Parklands. I'm getting mixed up. I'm getting
14 -- we're going back and forth so much.

15
16 Yeah, go ahead.
17

18 MS. LUKIN: (In Native). My name is
19 Maija Lukin, I'm the superintendent at Western Arctic
20 National Parklands. (In Native). I'm from Kotzebue
21 and Sisolik. I like to -- I have a couple of things
22 before we get to wildlife update and then subsistence
23 update.
24

25 I wanted to share with the RAC the
26 Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Zinke's top 10
27 priorities, and these are coming down from the top of
28 the Department of the Interior, down to us at the
29 management level. In his top 10 priorities, some of
30 them are not going to make sense in our area, but most
31 of them do and you'll get a better understanding about
32 what management techniques that we're hearing from the
33 top. So number 1 is create a conservation stewardship
34 legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt. Number 2 is
35 sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.
36 Number 3 is restore trust and be a good neighbor. Four
37 is ensure tribal sovereignty means something. Number 5
38 is increase revenues to support the Department of the
39 Interior and national interests. And I know that
40 doesn't make a lot of sense here with us because we
41 don't have fees to come into our Parks, but it does in
42 other parts of the country. Number 6 protect our
43 people and the border. Seven is strike a regulatory
44 balance. Number 8 is modernize our infrastructure.
45 Number 9 is reorganize the Department for the next 100
46 years. And the last priority is to achieve our goals
47 and lead our team forward.

48
49 And I just wanted to share that before
50

1 I shared my update.

2
3 I wanted to make sure that you guys all
4 got the resource protection update, I know I gave a
5 really brief update on that. But I did want to point
6 out a couple of things that I've heard throughout the
7 meeting. And one of those things is transporters and
8 guides and the difference between the two in the Noatak
9 Preserve and then the difference between -- basically
10 the difference between who can and can't hunt on the
11 National Monument and the Kobuk Valley National Park.
12 So just a reminder that Cape Krusenstern National
13 Monument and Kobuk Valley National Parks are closed to
14 all hunting for non-Federally-qualified subsistence
15 users. So if you're not local from this area, you're
16 not a Federally-qualified subsistence user and you
17 should not be hunting in those Parks.

18
19 And our law enforcement officer does
20 check. We do have one pilot law enforcement officer
21 and then one seasonal law enforcement officer who goes
22 up and down the rivers. And we do -- I know, I heard
23 this a couple of times, we do let people know when he
24 is floating up and down the rivers so they know that
25 he's there so, you know, he floated down the Kobuk and
26 up the Noatak this year. And so we have within the
27 Noatak Preserve though aside from the targeted closure
28 we do have guide concessions contracts, we have three
29 guide concessions contracts and only two are operating
30 right now. And what that means is a guide is a person
31 that you pay to take you out hunting and those are --
32 those can be non-Federally-qualified subsistence or
33 non-Federally-qualified people. They can be non-locals
34 who pay a guide to go out and take them hunting. For
35 the targeted closure area on the Noatak Preserve
36 though, that was not -- that -- you can't do that
37 during -- in the closure or to support any kind of
38 caribou hunting in that area. The guides -- the guide
39 contracts are very detailed and they follow a lot more
40 rules than the transporters do. And so we can dictate
41 how many clients they have and they have a maximum of
42 12 clients per year. So a maximum for the two guides
43 that are operating, a maximum of 24 clients. This year
44 I believe they had eight total. So they only had eight
45 clients for the Noatak Preserve.

46
47 And we don't have -- like BLM said we
48 don't have the numbers yet, we're not required to
49 report only January as well I believe for the
50

1 transporters, but we had five transports operating
2 within the Noatak Preserve this year. And that's in
3 the law enforcement update and it tells you how many
4 contacts were made with the Park rangers. And I
5 apologize if there was a mistake or there was some
6 confusion with our seasonal person. We do try to make
7 sure that they understand what the regulations are
8 within the Parks and Monuments that they're enforcing
9 before they go out. So I did make a note of that and
10 I'll bring that up.

11
12 I also did want to bring up the
13 targeted closure in the Noatak Preserve. We did work
14 really well, really closely with Enoch on that targeted
15 closure and we listened to subsistence resource
16 commissions and the advisory committees and just local
17 people who came into the office to discuss which areas
18 were really important to local subsistence users and
19 that was the area that was really important that I
20 found and that's what we came to the table with was
21 that targeted closure area. Which speak to all of the
22 communities that we visited for the hunter education
23 working group it seemed to really -- that was -- they
24 were happy with that compromise. And like Enoch said
25 (in Native) we really worked together for that. And so
26 I really appreciate that.

27
28 We are also working on our hunt
29 prospectus for the Noatak Preserve, that's going to be
30 coming out I believe the 2000 -- it's a 2018 timeline
31 so beginning January 1st, 2019. And like I said we
32 have three guide contracts right now that are on an
33 extension and only two operate right now. So right now
34 we're deciding what -- if we should keep three, if we
35 should keep two, if we should increase it, et cetera.
36 And so that's what we're working on right now and
37 that's just for the guide concession contracts, the
38 type category three guide concessions.

39
40 Let's see.

41
42 I also did want to bring up the delayed
43 entry area. I know yesterday you guys passed or you
44 supported the proposal to close game unit 23 to non-
45 Federally-qualified subsistence users, but we are going
46 to still extend that delayed entry area one week to
47 September 22nd even though it is in that area just in
48 case. So we're going to extend our National Park
49 Service administrative delayed entry area from
50

1 September 15th to September 22nd due to the delayed
2 migration and the discussions that we've had with local
3 people.
4

5 Before the wildlife update and the SRC
6 and hunter education working group update I just want
7 to let you guys know my door is always open, I really
8 encourage people to come in. I know I talked to Mike
9 and Enoch and a couple of other people, my door -- my --
10 I have my card for everyone, I actually brought seven
11 for the RAC members. Lots of people have called in.
12 And we don't have to talk about hunting, we can just
13 talk about the Federal system and I can educate you,
14 you can educate me on what's important to you. I feel
15 like I hear what's important, but it's really good to
16 talk to people one on one. And so we can discuss
17 absolutely anything is on the table for us so (in
18 Native).
19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.
21

22 MS. LUKIN: Hillary and Hannah are
23 going to give their reports. I don't know if you want
24 to ask me questions first or just wait until the end.
25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, we'll do it
27 all at -- let them do their report.
28

29 MS. ROBISON: Good afternoon, Chair and
30 Council members. My name is Hillary Robison, I'm the
31 chief of resources at Western Arctic National Parklands
32 and a wildlife biologist. I have -- I know everybody's
33 really tired right now, I have four things that I
34 wanted to chat with you about today.
35

36 First is I put a wildlife update in
37 your packets and that goes through topics covering
38 caribou, moose, muskox, dall sheep, bears, the work in
39 the lagoons, loons and some seabird and walrus surveys
40 we did this summer.
41

42 But I'd like to speak to a couple of
43 those, some of those have already been covered as we've
44 talked about wildlife proposals, but to talk about
45 information that hasn't been presented on bears. The
46 National Park Service and Fish and Game conducted
47 surveys in the lower Noatak River area in 1987, 2008
48 and 2016. These surveys varied in method and quality
49 and aren't directly comparable. The 2016 survey method
50

1 was the most accurate method so we've come up with a
2 really good method. And the analysis of that survey
3 suggest that bear numbers might be higher than they
4 were in the '90s, but because the surveys aren't
5 comparable back to the '80s we can't provide data on
6 trends. However from 1997 to 2015 average reported
7 harvest of brown bears in unit 23 increased, it
8 actually doubled between 1997 and 2015 from 29 bears
9 per year to 59 bears per year. And I've heard your
10 concerns about conflicts with bears. And it's
11 important for the RAC to know that bears can be reduced
12 to very low numbers and people can still have conflicts
13 with them because they are attracted to things like
14 dead animals, trash and human food. For example in
15 Yellowstone National Park bears had been harvested to
16 such low numbers that they were actually put on the
17 endangered species list, however people still had
18 conflicts with them because they were still attracted
19 to dead animals, trash and human food. And those
20 conflicts didn't stop until people managed those type
21 of attractants. So local residents for millennia have
22 kept dead animals, trash and human food away from bears
23 using sigluks (ph), elevated caches and taller fish
24 racks than we sometimes see now. And so there's some
25 creative -- there are things that have worked in the
26 past and creative solutions we can come up with in the
27 future to reduce conflicts with bears because they will
28 happen whatever their numbers are, even if they're very
29 low.

30
31 I put in a study proposal to collar
32 brown bears to better understand their movements and
33 their habitat use and predation. And I've put this
34 proposal in three different times and we're waiting for
35 funding for this project.

36
37 The other thing I'd like to mention is
38 what Alex mentioned earlier was about moose. We
39 discussed moose briefly during the wildlife proposals.
40 Just to follow-up with that, we are doing a composition
41 survey of moose in the lower Noatak River drainage in
42 early November, November 10th through the 17th if we
43 still have snow.

44
45 So keep your fingers crossed.

46
47 The other issue I'd like to update you
48 on is a die off of seabirds and walrus that was
49 discovered back in September. And we first learned

50

1 about it at the Park Service through Alaska Dispatch
2 News which is not the way we like to learn about these
3 things, we like to learn about them as soon as we see
4 them happening from local people on the ground. And so
5 I do have -- so in response to that the National Park
6 Service was concerned and we launched a survey of the
7 coast of Bering Land Bridge and Cape Krusenstern
8 National Monument in the end of September, September
9 24th through the 27th. Biologists found 290 dead birds
10 in seven different species and 14 birds have yet to be
11 identified. At this time short-tailed shearwaters seem
12 to have been the most affected. NPS biologists also
13 found 35 dead walruses from the east/northeast end of
14 Lop Lagoon to Shishmaref. NOAA, the National Oceanic
15 Atmospheric Administration with the help of UAF also
16 did surveys for marine mammals. UAF contacted the
17 Diomede tribal office and the Shishmaref tribal office
18 about the walrus strandings and the bird die offs and
19 the sampling. We just received information yesterday
20 that three samples have been analyzed and they've found
21 saxitoxin in those animals, in those samples. And this
22 is also known as paralytic sheefish -- sorry, paralytic
23 shellfish poisoning. The levels that they found were
24 not enough to cause the death of those animals, but
25 there is a potential concern or a heads up that
26 sometimes people go to the coast to collect shellfish
27 as they come up onto the coast in the fall and so it's
28 important to communicate with communities to let them
29 know that this has happened and all those -- these
30 animals weren't necessarily killed by it, there might
31 be a potential health risk. And so the person to
32 contact about this with the most updated information is
33 Gay Sheffield who works in Nome in conjunction with UAF.
34 And I've been in contact with her as has Susan
35 Georgette who passed on the information about saxitoxin
36 to me yesterday.

37
38 So in addition to that the Park Service
39 and other agencies are looking for ways to increase
40 coordination and information sharing because we found
41 out about this through Alaska Dispatch News which is
42 not ideal. What would be great is if we could hear
43 from local people about it if -- through things like
44 the Local Observer network with the Alaska Tribal
45 Health Consortium. There's an app on your phone which
46 is super cool and you can record unusual observations
47 and those can be commented on and entered into a data
48 base and shared with people. So there's also the Coast
49 Network, actually Ken Stenick out of Shishmaref was
50

1 someone who was originally seeing some of these deaths
2 and reporting them. So we're looking for ways and
3 we're -- to share information between agencies and with
4 local people to report these events so we can
5 investigate them and then report back to you what we
6 know.

7
8 And the final thing I have questions
9 for you all on is our Federal muskox hunt. We have two
10 Federal muskox hunts and you might have seen these
11 posters around town or in your villages or heard about
12 the opportunity on the radio, but there are two hunts
13 on Federal lands administered by the Park Service.
14 Hunt 2303 which is in Cape Krusenstern National
15 Monument and hunt 2312 which is on Federal lands north
16 and west of the Kobuk River drainage. I'd like to
17 point out that Deering and Buckland are not eligible
18 for these hunts so this is different. And things that
19 I would like input on are the following. One of the
20 reasons why this hunt was put in a Federal wildlife
21 proposal and passed was because people were looking for
22 increased opportunities to be able to hunt muskox. And
23 we have some regulatory options that we can -- some
24 conditions we can put on permits that would help spread
25 the opportunity to people because the original spirit
26 behind these was to spread the opportunity to more
27 people so more people had an opportunity to hunt. So
28 one thing I'm curious about is right now there is --
29 right now anybody can call in and give their name,
30 number, address and permanent residence to apply, but
31 they need to be a Federally-qualified user from these
32 areas on the map. I'm wondering would the RAC --
33 there's no limit so for example on who can apply from a
34 household. So I could apply, my husband could apply
35 and if we both got a permit should we both be able to
36 get a permit or should there only be one permit allowed
37 per household. So that's my question to you, would you
38 like to see a permit condition on this permit to only
39 allow one permit per household.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, excuse me, I
42 thought we addressed this in our SRC meeting, right?

43
44 MS. ROBISON: We did. And I'm seeking
45 the RAC's opinion or -- on this because this also is a
46 decision that includes your -- this group as well. So
47 I wanted to seek feedback from this group. There is
48 overlap between the groups, but there are some
49 differences.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Kramer.

2
3 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. Yeah, my suggestion
4 is it's one per household. The other thing is is, you
5 know, those lottery winners that got them this year,
6 you know, next year they're not qualified to apply.
7 That way it makes -- it spreads it out, makes other
8 people qualified to apply. And, you know, those who
9 didn't win those permits or get those permits, you
10 know, they can reapply. But those who did get the
11 permits, who got permits in their hand, they cannot
12 reapply, even the ones that harvested. It makes it
13 fair amongst -- across the board, you know. I mean, I
14 might put in one, Attamuk might put in one. You know,
15 if I get one I'd want someone else to get one that way
16 you're spreading it across the board and you're making
17 it fair to everybody.

18
19 That's all I have.

20
21 MS. ROBISON: Thanks for that, Mike.
22 That was my next question. So you beat me to it.

23
24 Enoch.

25
26 MR. MITCHELL: One per household.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Vern, I
29 think you had your hand up.

30
31 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, I'd go with one
32 per household because that's a lot of beef to have one
33 per person, you know, that's a lot of meat. I never
34 ate muskox before, but I seen them. And is there any
35 kind of ruling if there's a -- I happen to be out and
36 there's a muskox charging me and I -- and I nail him
37 then what's going to happen to me?

38
39 MS. ROBISON: That would be handled
40 under a defense of life and property situation.....

41
42 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

43
44 MS. ROBISON:under the State.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And maybe you could
47 explain a little bit what the SRC requested. He
48 covered it pretty much, but I want to hear it from you
49 guys.

50

1 MS. ATKINSON: Yeah, I can read from
2 the minutes on what they had given as feedback on this
3 issue. Hillary can finish up and I'll find it in the
4 minutes and then I'll cover it during my update.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

7
8 MS. ROBISON: Perfect because.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The way we said it
11 was the way Kramer said it, once you get drawn you miss
12 out one year later and you can reapply on the second
13 year. That way give everybody a chance to drawn and
14 there'll be one per household.

15
16 MS. ROBISON: Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And, Vern, they're
19 pretty tasty when they're killed right, muskox, they're
20 nice, they're good to eat. Something different.

21
22 Okay. Now.....

23
24 MS. ROBISON: My next and last question
25 which Hannah will when she covers her notes -- her
26 notes will cover this as well is I had a question about
27 trophy destruction. There is a requirement under the
28 State muskox hunts that the -- for trophy destruction
29 so cutting off the horns. On the Federal side there is
30 not that restriction and so we're thinking about -- we
31 wanted to seek your input whether you thought trophy
32 destruction was something you'd like to see on these
33 permits or not. And just to give a little background
34 I've spoken with the State about it and the hope was
35 that trophy destruction would help steer people away
36 from large bulls who we're trying to conserve in the
37 population because they play important roles in defense
38 of the herd and we're also watching that bull/cow ratio
39 drop so we're trying to protect large bulls. But what
40 they have found over the years is that the requirement
41 for trophy destruction hasn't really had that affect
42 because A, people want to make sure they're getting a
43 male and some people aren't as savvy as others about
44 knowing a young male versus an older male so they go
45 for the older male because they know what it is. Or
46 maybe muskox isn't their first choice so they just want
47 to get the biggest animal they can and grind it up into
48 burger. Or the third one is well, potentially even a
49 destroyed boss would be worth some money. So those are

50

1 some of the reasons why trophy destruction isn't really
2 helping that goal that we're looking for just to give
3 you some context. But I wanted to send it out to the
4 group to see what you thought. We are trying to
5 protect mature bulls, but I don't know that this is
6 having that affect.

7
8 One issue Brandon brought up as well is
9 that, you know, subsistence users in the region, they
10 want the meat so they may just forget to bring the
11 horns in and then they find out about the trophy
12 destruction requirement and they say, oh, man, I have
13 to go back out and get those horns and destroy them.
14 So that -- that's an inconvenience that might be
15 associated with it.

16
17 But just for all your information that
18 you can discuss amongst yourselves what you think.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

21
22 MS. ATKINSON: I have the comments from
23 the SRC and they're in line with what you all have said
24 so far about the one permit per household, restriction
25 on a back to back permit. The Commissions really
26 agreed with the idea of sharing the availability of
27 permits so that more people are able to get this permit
28 rather than the same people getting it over and over
29 again. So that was really supported. People on the
30 SRCs on both the Cape Krusenstern and Kobuk Valley were
31 not -- did not want the trophy destruction. They
32 thought that it would be difficult for subsistence
33 hunters.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any
36 questions from the Board?

37
38 MS. ROBISON: Mike.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Kramer. Kramer.

41
42 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I don't think there
43 should be any destruction in the -- you know, in the
44 horns or anything like that, but, you know, I kind of
45 would like to see a system similar to the walrus. You
46 know, in this day and this age there's microchips and
47 all that other stuff that's, you know, inserted
48 into dogs. You know, with your permit it would be a
49 specific number, there'll be a specific microchip that
50

1 gets, you know, secretly installed into your -- the
2 skull plate of that muskox, you know, and it matches
3 and then there'll also be one on a visible portion of
4 the horn where the -- a designated position on the horn
5 where it's drilled all the way through and a lead --
6 you know, a lead plate or a plate is stuck on there
7 with your tag number. Everything that's -- I mean,
8 everything that's affiliated with that harvest animal.
9 That way if, you know, they say hey, where'd you get
10 that from, hmmm, there's no tag on it, no visible
11 exterior tag. And you say, oh, I bought it from
12 somebody. Oh, cool. That person reports it to an
13 agency, they can go over there with a chip reader and
14 find out who sold it. I mean, it's just a suggestion,
15 it's just tracking, you know. I mean, there might be
16 some dishonest people out there, but, you know, most
17 people are honest. I'd get my done, I wouldn't want,
18 you know, someone to steal mine and try to go sell it.
19 So -- and I don't really care to get those things
20 mounted in my -- I mean, I might have the horns inside
21 my house, but I wouldn't have them mounted.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

24
25 Go ahead, Vern.

26
27 MR. CLEVELAND: How do we get permits
28 for sheep hunting. There -- I know it's open on the
29 upper Kobuk. Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk residents only.
30 How can I get one, why am I not qualified?

31
32 MS. ROBISON: I have -- Kumi Rattenbury
33 is on the phone. Kumi, are you -- do you hear this
34 conversation or Marcy?

35
36 MS. RATTENBURY: Hillary, actually
37 probably Marcy would be better answering that question.

38
39 MS. OKADA: Hi, this is Marcy Okada.
40 And in response to Mr. Cleveland's question, Ambler,
41 Shungnak, Kobuk, are resident zoned communities of
42 Gates of the Arctic National Park. And currently the
43 western portion of Gates of the Arctic that falls in
44 unit 23 is still open to sheep hunting, but it is only
45 open to those communities of Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk
46 because of their resident zone status.

47
48 MR. CLEVELAND: And who monitors this?

49
50

1 MS. OKADA: Currently the community
2 residents are required to get a State hunting license
3 in order to hunt. And it -- it's tracked through the
4 State system of whether people are getting sheep or
5 not.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

8
9 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And, Vern, I think
12 you want to qualify to hunt sheep you have to move back
13 to Shungnak.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

18
19 Anything else?

20
21 Go ahead.

22
23 MS. ROBISON: I'm done. I think Hannah
24 Atkinson has.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Hannah.

27
28 MS. ATKINSON: Hi, thank you again.
29 This is Hannah Atkinson with the National Park Service.
30 My position at the National Park Service is a cultural
31 anthropologist and I coordinate the subsistence
32 resource commissions.

33
34 The set -- we have subsistence resource
35 commission meetings twice a year, it's similar to the
36 RAC and we try and schedule them so that we have our
37 SRC meeting before the RAC because one of the things
38 that we try and do is provide comments to the RAC as we
39 did with the proposals this time. And so we met on
40 October 4th -- October 2nd and October 4th and then the
41 next meeting that we're going to have is on February
42 12th and 13th and 14th and 15th. So that's our ball
43 park for our spring meeting. And so I have updates
44 from the commissions, just like one page on some of the
45 things that happened at our last meeting and they're on
46 the back table back there.

47
48 So that's kind of all I wanted to say
49 about them.

50

1 Remember the open seats, those seats
2 are going to be open until about November 1st is when
3 I'm going to be able to pass on applications to the
4 Governor's Office. So get your applications to the
5 governor through me or directly to their office by
6 November 1st.

7
8 And then I wanted to let you know that
9 we have a Caribou Hunter Education Working Group that
10 was created by the Kobuk Valley SRC who wanted to see
11 some problems addressed around caribou hunting and
12 asked agencies to work together and have some space for
13 SRC members to meet informally with agency folks and
14 with public. Anyone who's interested really can come
15 to our office and we -- last year we met once a month
16 and talked about any hunter education issues that
17 people saw. And the big issue that we covered in the
18 last year or that we tried to, we were talking about
19 hunting on the Kobuk River and that there are a lot of
20 hunters that hunt in that area and that it can be
21 unsafe when people aren't being cautious of their
22 neighbors or are throwing caution out the window in
23 order to harvest caribou. So we -- with working with
24 (indiscernible) and Fish and Wildlife Service and
25 Alaska Department of Fish and Game we did hunter
26 education meetings in Noatak, Kiana, Noorvik, Ambler
27 and Kotzebue. And those are really successful and I
28 think it was a really good opportunity to kind of break
29 away from this like Council meeting type of format that
30 we usually have talking to subsistence users and go to
31 the communities and talk with people at the community
32 level. And so we're going to continue doing that. I'm
33 going to set up the next meeting, we haven't had a
34 meeting in a while because we were really busy going to
35 the villages, but set up the next meeting.

36
37 One issue that I've heard from a lot of
38 different people that I hope to cover, put out to our
39 education working group is hunting by snow machine,
40 caribou hunting by snow machine, what issues arise in
41 that and what concerns do people have whether it's
42 impacts to the herd that people are seeing or
43 traditions that -- traditional knowledge that people
44 want to pass on that they feel there's not a good way
45 to communicate it, that type of thing. So if you're
46 interested in being a part of that working group let me
47 know. And we want to try and have a holistic knowledge
48 that includes traditional knowledge as well as
49 regulatory changes. So we can use this working group

50

1 that is really focused on communication to communicate
2 the most up to date Federal regulation changes, State
3 regulation changes.

4
5 So if there's anything that you have
6 come across in your work with the Councils that you
7 really want covered, you want more people to know about
8 it, then let's talk about how we can get the
9 information to the public.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any
14 questions from the Board.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
19 There are no questions.

20
21 MS. ROBISON: I do have -- I do have
22 one more thing to add. Just Vern's question made me
23 think of it, was with dall sheep we did -- we've been
24 doing surveys and we -- our last survey was this July.
25 And the preliminary results from that show that there's
26 little significant change and that the numbers are too
27 low for harvest to be advisable in the Bairds and
28 DeLong Mountains. So during the 2017/2018 regulatory
29 year the Baird and DeLong Mountains and the Schwatka
30 Mountains and the remainder of GMU 23 will remain
31 closed to sheep hunting under State and Federal
32 regulations except in Gates of the Arctic which is
33 where Vern was asking about.

34
35 So I just thought I'd mention that.

36
37 MR. COMMACK: Can I ask a question?

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
40 Louie.

41
42 MR. COMMACK: Yeah, thank you. My
43 comment is on the consultation process with the tribes.

44
45 Every time Federal people come to my
46 village or other villages the decision has already been
47 made. We need to change the process where the people
48 themselves will make decisions regarding their land,
49 culture, livelihood. So I know it's got to go

50

1 Department of Interior and we need to fix this.

2
3 That's a concern I have.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

8
9 Go ahead, Maija.

10
11 MS. LUKIN: I 100 percent agree with
12 you and I understand that in the past that this is
13 really what happened. We call -- so there's a way that
14 we can change that. Understandably we have to follow
15 the laws so we may not be able to take everything
16 that's been said and make the decision what you want to
17 make, but that we can compromise and work together like
18 we did with the targeted closure with the Village of
19 Noatak. But we're hoping to change the pattern that's
20 happened in the past and have open communication with
21 the tribes where it's not official government to
22 government consultation. And so if you have an issue
23 and there's updates that we need to give, you invite me
24 or I -- you come into my office and we can talk about
25 absolutely everything. And we've been sort of calling
26 that (indiscernible) consultation so it's not official
27 government to government, but I really feel like having
28 a local person in the position that I'm in, we can --
29 we have an open door policy and we can come to the
30 table and talk about those things before official
31 government to government consultation happens.

32
33 And so we both understand where we are
34 when we do come to the official consultation that does
35 have to happen for certain things. And so I'm hoping
36 -- I'm hoping to change that pattern and I totally
37 understand, I've been involved with the government to
38 government consultation in previous positions that I've
39 had and so I really take that to heart.

40
41 Thank you for bringing that up.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

44
45 Go ahead, Kramer.

46
47 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, when's the next
48 count you guys are going to do on the dall sheep in
49 there or have you guys done one and what's -- you know,
50

1 are they climbing or are the wolves still slaying them
2 and we need to start whacking -- start taking wolves
3 like crazy or are they -- their lambs are starting to
4 survive better or what's going on?

5
6 MS. ROBISON: I believe Kumi Rattenbury
7 is on the phone. Kumi, do you want to field that
8 question?

9
10 MS. RATTENBURY: Sure. Good afternoon,
11 everyone. This is Kumi Rattenbury, I'm with the Park
12 Service in Fairbanks. And according to some of the
13 dall sheet surveys the Park Service does in the Central
14 Muchenberg (ph) range. I think that the question was
15 what's happening with the population, do we know what's
16 going on with it in the preceding years, is that your
17 question?

18
19 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, and if so when is
20 the next count or has the count occurred?

21
22 MS. RATTENBURY: When is the next --
23 sorry, what?

24
25 MR. KRAMER: When is the next count or
26 has that count occurred lately.

27
28 MS. RATTENBURY: Oh. So we do them
29 every July and we plan on doing them every July during
30 this time that numbers are low. So that's a good time
31 of year for us to do it, it's after most of the lambs
32 have gone through kind of the early period of their
33 life where there's the highest mortality and I believe
34 the snow's gone by then. So it'll happen every July,
35 we'll be doing one in the Central DeLong Mountains and
36 also the Wetchenberry (ph) Mountains every year. So,
37 yeah, and I think numbers will -- you know, they're low
38 right now, at least they're stable and not continuing
39 to decline. The number of lambs to ewes is -- the
40 ratio is good, but it's still not very many sheep yet.
41 But I think, you know, it could turn around here in a
42 little bit.

43
44 But there's going to be a little bit of
45 a lag before it starts increasing I think.

46
47 MS. ROBISON: Kumi, this is Hillary.
48 Do you -- can you speak to the factors that contributed
49 to the decline?

50

1 MS. RATTENBURY: Yeah, so there was a
2 weather related decline in the winter of 2012/2013 and
3 I think that was kind of made worse by some icing
4 events the winter after that. We have very low lamb
5 numbers in 2013/2014 in a number of different places in
6 the State and that just kind of translates to also some
7 of the younger sheep, you know, to yearlings and very
8 young rams and ewes. Also probably there was high
9 mortality in those groups during those winters too. So
10 that's why there was a big decline in a very short
11 time. And since then, you know, basically we're just
12 keeping an eye on it and we'll be starting some studies
13 in the Noatak area, probably close to the Village of
14 Noatak and the Western Baird Mountains looking at some
15 range conditions and pregnancy rates.

16
17 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I know the last
18 time, I can't remember what the exact count was, it was
19 something like between 250 and 350 for both ranges.
20 You know, I -- you didn't give me a number as to the
21 latest number, but I can somewhat recall the last
22 number that we received and it might have been a year
23 or two ago.

24
25 MS. ROBISON: Mike, the numbers are
26 here in your handout and you can see in this figure
27 number 2, you can see the population estimates there.
28 And Kumi can speak to them directly if she'd like to
29 address that or I can.

30
31 MR. KRAMER: If they're here they're
32 here.

33
34 MS. RATTENBURY: Yeah, the -- we didn't
35 do a survey in 2015 in the DeLong Mountains north of
36 the Noatak River, but other than that, you know, the
37 Wetchenberry Mountains we've done in 2014, that's when
38 the big decline was really obvious, then in 2015, '16
39 and '17. So we're hoping that it starts increasing out
40 of that low range that they're in right now.

41
42 It looks like a little bit of a bump up
43 through 2016, but it's not significant and so just --
44 you can keep an eye on that.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

47
48 Now -- go ahead, Enoch.

49
50

1 MR. MITCHELL: Yes. I know the sheep
2 been closed for a while and the numbers are kind of
3 coming up. And I kind of noticed that as soon as some
4 sheep get available they start issuing permits on. Now
5 I'm -- I would like to see it closed until the sheep is
6 real stable, not as soon as a ram is available and you
7 have a hundred hunters trying to get that one ram. I
8 would like to see the sheep count come back up again to
9 be a healthy population.

10
11 MS. RATTENBURY: Yeah, numbers right
12 now are currently as low as they were during that
13 closure in the early '90s. So I agree that there
14 probably is not any sheep available for harvest, it's
15 best to keep the hunt closed.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
18 Are you done?

19
20 MS. ROBISON: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So I think what next
23 we need to do is skip D and we need to go to our future
24 dates.

25
26 Go ahead, Zach.

27
28 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. I
29 know that we had had as requested by Member Commack the
30 update on the Ambler Access Project, but I just want to
31 make sure that we didn't skip over Marcy Okada at
32 Gates. So I want to double check and see if there's
33 anything that she had of interest to the Council.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. Ask her.

36
37 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
38 Marcy Okada, are you on the line?

39
40 MS. OKADA: Yes, I'm on the line.

41
42 MR. STEVENSON: Are you prepared to
43 deliver your update on Gates?

44
45 MS. OKADA: Okay. So this is March
46 Okada with Gates of the Arctic National Park and
47 Preserve. And I'll just quickly go over our Park
48 updates.

49
50

1 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
2 Resource Commission met on April 13th, 2017 in Wiseman,
3 Alaska. The Commission shared information on
4 subsistence issues and concerns and National Park
5 Service provided updates on management issues, wildlife
6 research and monitoring activities. The next meeting
7 is scheduled for November 14th to 15th in Fairbanks.
8 And currently Louie Commack, Jr., from Ambler is on our
9 SRC as well as Raymond Woods from Shungnak.

10
11 In regards to fire management on June
12 27th there was a lightening started fire in the Noorvik
13 Lake area within Gates of the Arctic National Park and
14 Preserve. The fire burned a total of 492 acres off the
15 northwest side of Noorvik Lake. It was in the limited
16 fire management zone and burned predominantly in black
17 spruce and tundra field type. The fire was declared
18 out on August 30th.

19
20 And I'm just going to skip over the
21 dall sheep surveys because there was already discussion
22 on dall sheep.

23
24 Quickly moving to bear studies.

25
26 A recent study investigating movement
27 patterns of grizzly bears in Gates of the Arctic
28 National Park and Preserve has found a strong link
29 between salmon and bears. To better understand this
30 relationship the National Park Service has been
31 estimating the densities and abundance of bears using
32 salmon streams within and along the Gates of the Arctic
33 National Park and Preserve. Three streams have been
34 sampled over the last two years, Beaver Creek, Kugruk
35 River and Aniakok (ph) River. Park Service biologists
36 used non-invasive sampling techniques to collect bear
37 hair samples along salmon streams which can then be
38 used to identify individuals using genetic analysis.
39 This study is timely in that the proposed Ambler Road
40 is slated to bisect many of the salmon streams on the
41 upper Koyukuk and Kobuk Rivers. Understanding the
42 relationship between salmon and bears along the road
43 corridor.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Hello, are you there?
46 Marcy, if you could hear us, we lost you.

47
48 MS. OKADA: Sorry, Mr. Chair, I got cut
49 off and I'm going to finish going over the bear
50

1 studies.

2

3 So understanding the relationship
4 between salmon and bears along the road corridor will
5 provide managers with information that will ultimately
6 help impacts to bear populations from potential road
7 development as well as mitigate bear/human conflicts.

8

9 Are there any questions?

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Is there any question
12 for her from the Board?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank
17 you.

18

19 MS. OKADA: And, Mr. Chair, I also have
20 an Ambler Mining District Project update as it relates
21 to Gates of the Arctic.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

24

25 MS. OKADA: You should have received a
26 newsletter, I'm not sure if you have it in front of
27 you, but that's what I'm going to be going over.

28

29 So on November 24th, 2015, the Alaska
30 Industrial Development and Export Authority submitted
31 an application for the Ambler Mining District
32 Industrial Access Project. The proposal is for the
33 construction and operation of a 211 mile long, all
34 season, controlled access and road connecting the
35 Ambler Mining District with the Dalton Highway.
36 Approximately 20 miles of this proposed road will cross
37 Gates of the Arctic National Preserve. The Alaska
38 National Interest Lands Conservation Act requires that
39 this road be permitted across Gates of the Arctic
40 National Preserve. In addition ANILCA directs that an
41 environmental and economic analysis be prepared for the
42 road across Park Service lands in order to determine a
43 preferred road alignment and develop appropriate terms
44 and conditions for its use.

45

46 The two potential routes across the
47 Park has been identified in the project application
48 material. We are required to do a environmental and
49 economic analysis and it will examine each of these

50

1 routes. And even though the EA will assess potential
2 environmental, social and economic impacts on fish and
3 wildlife and their habitat as well on the rural and
4 traditional lifestyles including subsistence
5 activities. The analysis results will identify the
6 route that poses the fewest adverse affects and
7 recommend measure to minimize the negative impacts and
8 enhance positive impacts.
9

10 Currently we are -- public comments are
11 being taken as early as October of this year and it'll
12 -- public comments are -- the public comment period is
13 open until January 15th of 2018. Alaska Native
14 consultation and outreach was initiated in the spring
15 of 2017 and it continues. We have reached out to all
16 of the villages in the Northwest Arctic region to see
17 if they're interested in being a part of the
18 consultation process. Future meeting dates and other
19 opportunities for public comment will be announced by
20 newsletter, press release, letters and emails to
21 stakeholders, social media and the Park website. And
22 we have a website where people can go online and submit
23 their comments or they can also send their comments to
24 our superintendent, Greg Dudgeon.
25

26 Are there any questions?
27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Are there any
29 questions from the Council?
30

31 Go ahead, Zach.
32

33 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Through the Chair. Marcy, is it possible for you to
35 share that meeting information and times with me
36 through OSM so we can be certain we get out to our
37 Councils?
38

39 MS. OKADA: I know if I'm understanding
40 you correctly, Zach, but you're asking for future
41 meeting dates for scheduled scoping meetings?
42

43 MR. STEVENSON: That's correct.
44

45 MS. OKADA: Okay. I can pass on that
46 information once meeting dates have been scheduled.
47

48 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anything
2 else?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not before we go
7 on a short break we need to -- our future meeting
8 dates. Our future meeting dates.....

9
10 Go ahead, Zach.

11
12 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 This is the final action item on the agenda before
14 closing comments and adjournment.

15
16 First we just need to confirm our
17 winter, 2018 meeting date and location. And you'll see
18 the calendar in your meeting book on page 447.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So look like it's
23 recommending that we have one around February 28, March
24 1 here in Kotzebue. What's the Council think.

25
26 MR. CLEVELAND: Fine with me. I don't
27 have no -- nothing going on in February 28 I don't
28 think.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So I need it
31 in motion so we can have it right around then and a
32 second.

33
34 MR. CLEVELAND: Make a motion that we
35 have our winter meeting on February 28th and March 1.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Where?

38
39 MR. CLEVELAND: Here in Kotzebue.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Do I have
42 a second.

43
44 MR. KRAMER: Second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second. March --
47 February 28 and March 1 here in Kotzebue.

48
49 MR. CLEVELAND: Call for question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question's been
2 called for. Discussion.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, all in favor
7 signify by saying aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 (No opposing votes)

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.
14 Coordinator, is there anything else we need to do
15 besides go home now?

16
17 MR. STEVENSON: You need to select our
18 -- through the Chair. We need to select our fall, 2018
19 meeting date and location, closing comments and
20 adjournment.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 The -- pardon me. The selection of
25 2018 -- the selection of fall, 2018 meeting date and
26 location. The calendar is featured on page 448 of your
27 meeting books.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

32
33 MR. KRAMER: I make a motion to
34 continue to have it on the 25th and 26th of October.
35 That way it gives us time to be able to go out and
36 subsistence harvest caribou and it'll be late enough to
37 where we should have it all done by then. As for a
38 place, I leave it up to the Board.

39
40 MR. CLEVELAND: I'll second that motion
41 and be here in Kotzebue.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Here in Kotzebue.
46 What's the dates again?

47
48 MR. KRAMER: 24th and 25th.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's Thursday and
2 Friday. What does the agency think, I know you guys
3 want to go home on Friday?

4
5 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

8
9 MR. STEVENSON: One question is would
10 the Council like to have one meeting one time of the
11 year in Anchorage, would there be value to that, is
12 that -- that would give you an opportunity to get more
13 participation from Federal agencies. It's just a
14 thought. You know, that -- you've got to express if
15 you want that.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you. Go
20 ahead, Vern.

21
22 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes, that would be a
23 good idea. If funding wise is okay, if not we can go
24 someplace else. If funding is available. I said if.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, I'm just looking
27 at the date. So what dates would you -- do you still
28 want to have it here in Kotzebue then? Someone made
29 the motion.

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: Not yet on this one.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, not yet on this
34 one. I thought they picked October 25, 26.

35
36 MR. KRAMER: I made a motion for the
37 dates.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: 25, 26 was the dates.
40 That's why I had to question because the agencies, I'm
41 giving them a chance for them to go home Friday morning.

42
43 Do the Council want to still have it
44 here in Kotzebue, October 25, 26? That's the motion
45 that I heard earlier.

46
47 MR. COMMACK: Do you need a second?

48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: There was a second.

50

1 MR. COMMACK: Oh. Question.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: But I think they're
4 going to rescind it because he announced that we
5 probably could have it in Anchorage. It's up to you, I
6 need the proposer and the seconder to -- if they want
7 to change or rescind it.

8
9 MR. KRAMER: I rescind my motion.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. It's rescinded
12 and by seconder agree? Who was the seconder, Vern,
13 right?

14
15 I'm playing with the button, sorry,
16 getting tired.

17
18 So you guys want to have it in
19 Anchorage?

20
21 MR. COMMACK: Kotzebue.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Here in Kotzebue,
24 everybody still want to have it here in -- Louie said
25 here in Kotzebue. I don't really -- I don't -- I hear
26 one here in Kotzebue, I hear one in Anchorage. Do I
27 hear from anybody else where they want to have it?
28 Enoch said Anchorage, Louie said here in Kotzebue.
29 Vern?

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: It's completely up to
32 you guys where you want to do it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Motos, what do you
35 say, both of you? Up to you where you guys want to
36 have it, I'm open for both. I -- it's whatever you
37 guys decide, that's where I'm going to have it. I
38 leave it all up to you guys. So far I have one and
39 one. So.....

40
41 Vern.

42
43 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes, instead of just
44 meeting someone on the mic, if you could see who they
45 are and where they work, that would be good and give us
46 a report face to face be a lot better than listening on
47 the mic. And the way we had problems with this system
48 that would knock it up. So if you want to have a
49 meeting in Anchorage I'll go for Anchorage. And that's

50

1 up to the agencies because we'd have more participation
2 from the agencies. Am I correct?

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I think what
5 Louie's saying without really saying anything, he's
6 going to be there for the AFN. He's going to be tired
7 of Anchorage, but you get a lot of mileage let's put it
8 that way.

9
10 I'm open, like I say I'm open.
11 Whatever you guys decide I'll -- this time I will live
12 with whatever you guys say.

13
14 I'm open.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I guess maybe you
19 guys can't decide, maybe I should ask them
20 individually. Louie said Kotzebue, Vern said
21 Anchorage.

22
23 Calvin, what do you say, where do you
24 want to have yours? Hello, Calvin.

25
26 MR. MOTO: Huh? I had my hearing aid
27 off.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm sorry if I'm that
30 boring, but.....

31
32 MR. MOTO: Kotzebue when?

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. There's two
35 choices, Kotzebue or Anchorage. One say Kotzebue and
36 one say Anchorage, I'm trying to rotate it this way.

37
38 MR. MOTO: So we got two for Anchorage.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You have two for
41 Anchorage. Enoch.

42
43 MR. COMMACK: Now three for Anchorage.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Speak up please and
46 turn your mic on. I didn't hear what you say, I'm
47 asking what did you decide?

48
49 MR. MITCHELL: Anchorage.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Turn your mic on.
2
3 MR. MITCHELL: Anchorage.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Beverly.
6
7 MS. MOTO: Kotzebue.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Kramer.
10
11 MR. KRAMER: To me. Anchorage.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anchorage. Read it
14 back to me please, Zach, how many for Anchorage and how
15 many for Kotzebue?
16
17 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, the tally
18 shows four votes for Anchorage and two Kotzebue.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The way it sounds,
21 sounds like we're going to have it at Anchorage. So we
22 will have it. Let's pick the dates because we need to
23 go home.
24
25 I will recommend to you guys since I
26 didn't -- I'm not going to vote, I'm going to live with
27 the majority of it. I'll take -- I'll have to take
28 Anchorage now. October 24, 25 and travel 23 and return
29 26 at your choice, evening or -- morning or evening.
30 And I tell you if we're going to have it in Anchorage,
31 if you're going to stay extra or go early it'll be on
32 your own. These dates are only for our meeting, the
33 time involved in our meeting. And if we decide 24
34 we'll probably start 8:30, 9:00 o'clock in the morning
35 and quit 25 in the afternoon and if you want to stay
36 for the weekend it'll be on your own.
37
38 That way there'll be no conflict.
39
40 So I need the dates from the Council.
41
42 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Vern.
45
46 MR. CLEVELAND: I make a motion to have
47 a meeting in Anchorage on October 24, 28, leave from
48 your town 23rd and return on 26.
49
50

1 MR. MITCHELL: Second.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. We
4 understand what Vern is trying to say, he's trying to
5 say 24, 25. He said 28. So everybody's tired. So our
6 next meeting date will be October -- for our fall,
7 2018, will be October 25 -- excuse me, October 24,
8 October 25. Let's put it this way, this next year's a
9 long way, but I might try to think is there any future
10 issues that the agencies are seeing that we need to
11 have more time to talk about, that way we won't have to
12 rush like this and completely wears out like two and a
13 half days or -- because we always have to rush and
14 rushing is enough because in order to accomplish what
15 we're needing in our Parklands we need to have more
16 time, that's what I always feel. But I'm fine with
17 October 24, 25. And we'll leave it up to the
18 coordinator which -- where at in Anchorage.

19
20 So I need a motion to have it
21 October.....

22
23 MR. COMMACK: Enoch.

24
25 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

28
29 MR. COMMACK: My question is when is
30 the Board of Game meeting?

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's -- I think it's
33 our turn here in March.

34
35 MR. MITCHELL: No, they got Board of
36 Fish in March.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, there's a
39 rotational for.....

40
41 MR. MITCHELL: No, Board of Game is
42 next month.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Zach is trying to
45 look it up. Go ahead, Zach.

46
47 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. The
48 Alaska Board of Game, 2017, 2018 meeting cycle
49 information is as follows.

50

1 The work session is on -- pardon me.
2 The Central Southwest region meets on February 16
3 through 23rd, 2018. You're addressing specifically
4 2018, correct?

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

7
8 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Submission
9 for comments for 2018 includes Central Southwest region
10 meeting on Friday, February 2nd, 2018 and that's all
11 the information I have available at this time.

12
13 Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

16
17 MR. STEVENSON: I can follow up if I
18 have further information.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

21
22 MS. MAAS: Yeah, this is Lisa Maas for
23 the record. And the Arctic and Western region, the
24 next meeting cycle is 2019/2020. So there won't be any
25 meetings for the Arctic and Western region for the
26 Board of Game until 2019.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's right.
29 I thought there was a cycle in there.

30
31 MS. MAAS: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
34 Okay. Everybody agrees on those dates there, 24, 25.
35 Travel 23, you return 26.

36
37 MR. CLEVELAND: Call for question.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Call for question.
40 All in favor signify by saying aye.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No comment from me.

45
46 Any opposed.

47
48 (No opposing votes)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we'll have
2 our next meeting and travel October 23 -- travel --
3 October 23 we travel and 24, 25 our meeting and return
4 on the 26th.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 Anything else, Zach.

9
10 MR. STEVENSON: Closing comments, Mr.
11 Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Closing comments from
14 the Council. Make it short and sweet so we can go
15 home. We never even go on break yet. Closing
16 comments, let's finish this off.

17
18 Okay. I'll -- since I got no
19 volunteers I'll start it off. I'll say thank you from
20 the agencies for the information you guys give us and
21 putting up with my stupid idiot trying to run this and
22 I -- I'm giving my best, let's put it that way. And
23 I'm trying it. And I thank you, Council and you
24 Council members from the villages too. I will thank
25 your family for making you available to come. And
26 that's all I can say. Thank you. The meeting to me
27 was pretty productive, we did worry and I think we got
28 a lot done this year. And by next meeting next year I
29 wish we would have less proposals so we don't have to
30 worry about anything. Less meeting and that will be a
31 lot easier on us.

32
33 And I thank you and thank you all.

34
35 Okay. Who's next?

36
37 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Vern.

40
41 MR. CLEVELAND: I'd like to thank the
42 agencies for their reports and thank you guys for
43 putting up with us for two days with all the
44 complications we had with the problems we had. And I
45 hope we go home, I hope we don't get storm bound. I'd
46 like to go home, I've been here all week.

47
48 Thank you very much.

49
50

1 Have a happy Halloween.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Who's
4 next? Just turn your mic on.

5
6 MR. MITCHELL: Taikuu. (In Native)

7
8 MR. KRAMER: Thank all the agencies and
9 everybody that came and all the people that
10 participated on the phone lines. I just happened to
11 get done with Fish and Game Advisory Council meeting
12 and people just start popping in the door for this
13 meeting. So I got to hand out here with Zach and the
14 gang for a little while before I went home. But good
15 seeing all of you guys, hope to see some of the other
16 ones.

17
18 You know, I haven't seen Marcy Okada in
19 a long time. So it would be good if they find the time
20 to come this way once in a while instead of only
21 hearing their voice.

22
23 And that's all I have.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Kramer.

28
29 Anyone else in the Council, closing
30 comments.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not I guess the
35 most important thing right now is motion to adjourn.

36
37 Go ahead, Vern.

38
39 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move.

40
41 MR. MITCHELL: Second.

42
43 MR. CLEVELAND: Motion to adjourn.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We are now officially
46 closed at 3:45 p.m.

47
48 (Meeting adjourned)

49
50

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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